Lifoifoi directed to prove transfer of Hillblom's share in company. PAGE 2
2 get prison terms for beating 3, fracturing skull of 1. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 42

www.saipantribune.com | THURSDAY MARCH 1, 2018 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

Torres invites Murkowski to CNMI

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has invited members of U.S. Congress to visit the CNMI to observe the challenges and progress made since the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program was created in 2010.

Murkowski

» 'I believe it will move forward'

Torres said yesterday that he invited U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which she chairs, to visit the NMI so she could personally observe the challenges and progress that has been made.

See TORRES on Page 4

Kilili: Put rejected CW permits on hold

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) requested the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security yesterday to set aside rejected CNMI-Only Transitional Worker permit applications for the upcoming fiscal year 2019.

While unsure about meeting the April 2018 deadline for the new bill to extend the CNMI transitional period by 10 years, Sablan sent a second letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen dated Feb. 26, requesting to set

See KILILI on Page 4

WOMEN'S AFFAIRS' OFFICE
Women and dignitaries cut the ribbon to officially open the new Women's Affair Office building on Capital Hill yesterday during the Women's Empowerment Month proclamation signing. The progress made by the women of the CNMI will be commemorated throughout the month of March.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

2 more arrested over meth labs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two more persons were arrested in connection with a clandestine methamphetamine lab on Saipan, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration yesterday.

In a statement, enforcement efforts led to the identification and seizure of the two methamphetamine operations and the arrest of four persons, according to DEA Guam/Saipan resident agent in charge Edward A. Talbot.

Talbot did not name the four individuals.

As of yesterday, only Vin-

See METH on Page 4

CHCC program keeps local nurses on island

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. financial assistance program was created last year for the hospital to wean itself off from its dependence on foreign nurses and cultivate nurses that graduate from the Northern Marianas College.

CHCC public information officer Sami Birmingham-Babauta said that the CHCC financial assistance program is not money to send students to nursing school.

"We currently have nurses working at the hospital who were involved in the program.

See CHCC on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Companies are under growing pressure to pick a side in the gun debate.
PAGE 17

NATION
The security clearance of presidential son-in-law Jared Kushner has been downgraded.
PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
James Dean's cherry-red jacket from "Rebel Without a Cause" is up for auction.
PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Lifoifoi directed to prove transfer of Hillblom's share in company

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has ordered Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Jose R. Lifoifoi to show proof that the shares of late business tycoon Larry Hillblom in a corporation had been transferred to him.

Judge pro tempore Alberto C. Lamorena III also ordered Lifoifoi and his daughters, Ignacia L. Evangelista and Remedio L. Pangelinan, to submit a list of the properties owned by the corporation, Quad L.

Lamorena gave the parties until March 7, 2018, to submit the information/documents to the court.

The judge issued the order after hearing arguments last Friday on Lifoifoi's application for a preliminary injunction to prevent Evangelista and Pangelinan from distributing dividends or transferring real property until Lifoifoi is heard on the merits of his lawsuit.

Lamorena placed Lifoifoi's motion for preliminary injunction under advisement.

Lifoifoi is suing his two daughters and Quad L's Co., also known as Quad L Corp., for conversion, unlawful taking, breach of fiduciary duty, and removal of directors by judicial proceeding.

Lifoifoi, through counsel Charity R. Hodson, asked the court to declare him as the only lawful shareholder of Quad L and finding all of his shares that were transferred without his consent void from the beginning.

According to Hodson in the complaint filed last September, in 1994, Lifoifoi and Hillblom created a corporation called Nha Thrang Inc., listing them as its sole shareholders.

Hodson said from the date of its incorporation until 1995, Lifoifoi and Hillblom remained the sole shareholders of Nha Thrang Inc.

Hillblom died in a plane crash on May 21, 1995.

In 1998-1999, Lifoifoi allegedly bought out the shares for Nha Thrang Inc. from the Hillblom estate and became the sole shareholder.

Since 1998, Hodson said, Lifoifoi's four children—Evangelista, Pangelinan, Joseph Lifoifoi, and Josephine Tajibmai—have been running his company in various positions on the board of directors and as officers of Nha Thrang Inc.

Tajibmai passed away in September 2015, leaving her siblings to run the company.

In his lawsuit, Lifoifoi alleged that Evangelista and Pangelinan distributed his assets and shares without his consent.

He wants the court to direct his daughters to transfer their shares back to him and to transfer corporate assets back to the corporation.

Lifoifoi also asked the court to issue a preliminary injunction.

At the hearing last Friday on Lifoifoi's motion for preliminary injunction, Hodson appeared as counsel for Lifoifoi, while lawyers Benjamin Petersburg and Mark Hanson served as counsel for Evangelista, Pangelinan, and Quad L.

In Lifoifoi's motion for preliminary injunction, Hodson said they request the relief not to determine the status of the case but to preserve the status quo until a final determination has been made on the merits.

Hodson said the last uncontested status prior to this controversy was when Lifoifoi was the sole shareholder of Quad L, the corporation retained its real property assets, and Evangelista and Pangelinan were officers and directors of Quad L.

Hodson said Lifoifoi is merely requesting that defendants be stopped from distributing dividends and from transferring any more corporate assets.

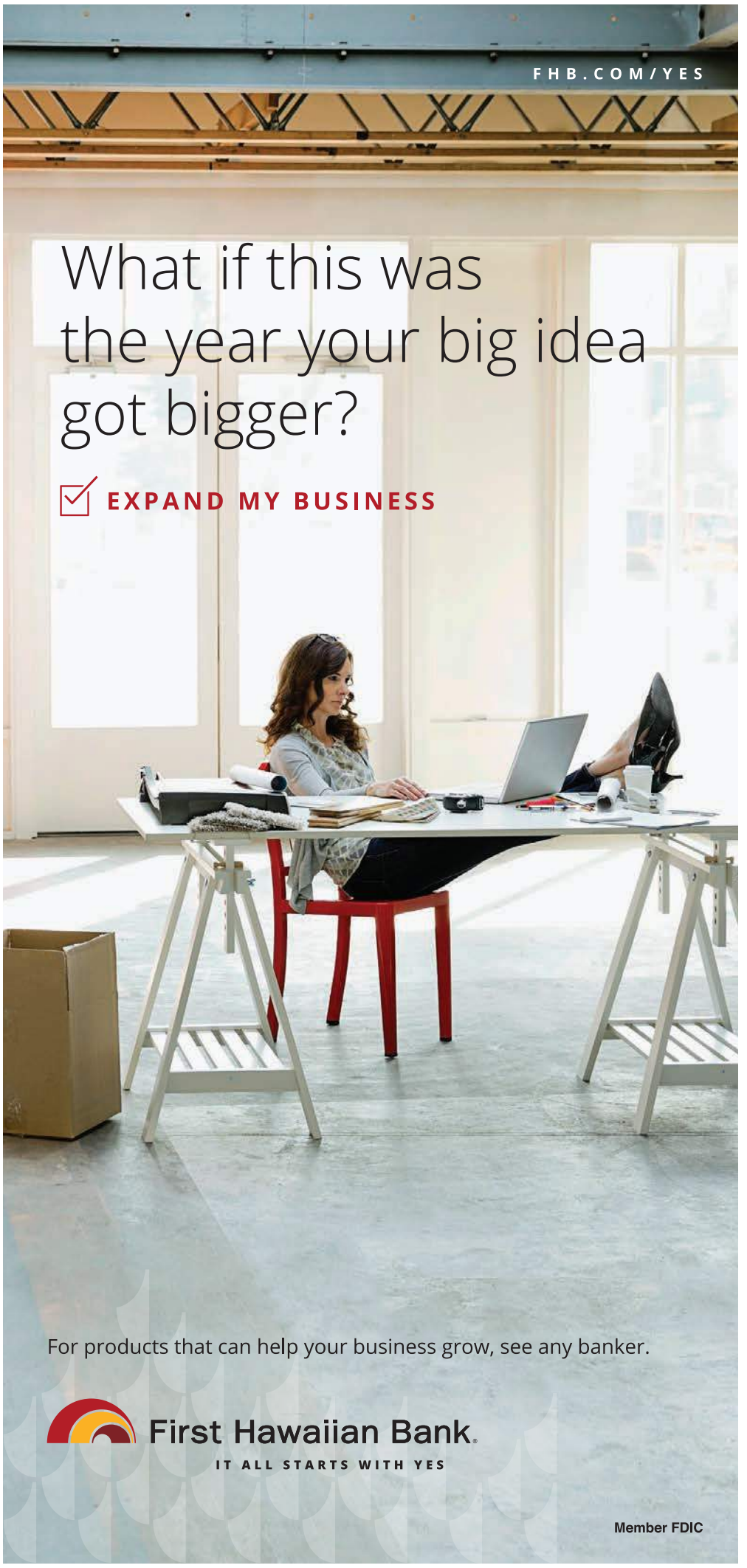
Hodson said the corporate records of Quad L show that the last distribution occurred in 2007.

Further, the lawyer said, Evangelista and Pangelinan will continue to be compensated in their positions as officers and directors.

On the issue of public interest, Hodson said allowing corporate officers and directors to transfer shares of shareholders to themselves, wrongfully distribute dividends amongst themselves, and sell corporate assets to themselves at nominal prices is harmful to the core concept of fiduciary duty and undermines commercial business in the Commonwealth.

In defendants' opposition to Lifoifoi's motion, Hanson said

See LIFOIFOI on Page 4


FHB.COM/YES
What if this was the year your big idea got bigger?
EXPAND MY BUSINESS
For products that can help your business grow, see any banker.
First Hawaiian Bank
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES
Member FDIC

Instant "Massive" BINGO
Located behind Bank Pacific | Beach Road, Garapan
Phone No. 670-783-GAME (4263) | Email: massive@pticom.com
March Massive Spectacular
SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018
DOOR OPENS 2PM – GAMES STARTS 2:30PM
$1,000.00 CASH PACKAGE PAYOUT GUARANTEED
10 GAMES = 1PK: $50.00 / BUY 2 GET 1 FREE (Single Player)
$10,000.00 COVERALL
(51 NUMBERS OR LESS)
$1,000.00 CONSOLATION PRIZE
Win 40" Polaroid Smart TV | Patio Furniture Set | Cookware and MORE!!!
FREE REFRESHMENT!
EVERY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY * INSTANT BINGO
EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY * PACKAGE GAMES
DOOR OPEN 7PM, GAMES STARTS 7:30PM
EVERY SUNDAY, DOOR OPEN 2PM, GAMES STARTS 2:30PM
WARM UP * EARLY BIRD * SPECIALS GAMES * INSTANT BINGO
EASY TO PLAY & EASY TO WIN AT
INSTANT "MASSIVE" BINGO, INSTANT CASH WINNERS!
THE HOTTEST GAMES IN TOWN!
Must be 18yrs to play
Coming Soon E-Bingo!

2 get prison terms for beating 3, fracturing skull of 1

Two of four persons accused of beating three persons in Chalan Kanoa last year and seriously injuring one were slapped with prison terms last Monday after pleading guilty in Superior Court.

At a change of plea hearing, Darren Michael, 24, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and battery and assault with a dangerous weapon. Ethan Calvo, 20, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Michael to a 10-year prison term and Calvo to three years imprisonment.

Michael shall not be eligible for parole until he has served seven years of his prison term.

Michael was given credit for 334 days of time already served in custody. He was ordered to pay a $100 court fee. He was allowed to start serving the prison term at the Department of Corrections tomorrow, Friday, at 8am.

Govendo sentenced Calvo to five years and six months in prison, all suspended except for three years.

Calvo, who was given credit for 357 days of time already served in custody, will be eligible for parole.

Calvo was ordered to pay $100 in court costs and a probation fee.

After serving his prison term, Calvo will be placed on supervised probation for two years.

Michael and Calvo were hold jointly liable with Steve H. Paul and a male juvenile to pay the three victims $21,478 in restitution.

The seriously injured victim, Gordon Phillip, incurred a total of $20,298 in medical expenses.

Michael punched Anisio Sakuna on March 5, 2017, and hit or commanded others to hit Phillip with brass knuckles and a bat. As a result, Phillip suffered a skull fracture.

Calvo repeatedly punched Phillip in the face. He also aided his co-defendants in beating Phillip.

Last Sept. 13, Steve Paul, 20, pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault and battery. He was slapped with an eight-year prison term.

The case against the juvenile was sealed.

Police said that Phillip was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center, where he was admitted to the intensive care unit.

The two other victims, Sakuna and Albert Esefou, also suffered injuries, police said.

The wife of Sakuna told police that she and her husband were sitting in front of their house in Chalan Kanoa when they saw Michael chasing an unidentified man. The suspects later returned, resulting in a riot. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

USED CAR PRICE, NEW CAR
CONFIDENCE
ALL PRE-OWNED VEHICLES COME WITH 3 MONTH / 3,000 MILE WARRANTY
22,100 MILES
2016 MITSUBISHI
LANCER ES
Fuel-efficient 4 Cylinder Engine • Automatic Transmission • Alloy Wheels • Keyless Entry • Alarm system • Bluetooth
SALE PRICE $15,995
PER PAYCHECK *$127
ALL CARS PRICED BELOW KELLEY BLUE BOOK
CARS AS LOW AS *$102 PER PAYCHECK
SUVs AS LOW AS *$115 PER PAYCHECK
2007 MAZDA MAZDA CX9 82,000 MILES SALE PRICE $8,895 KBB $8,960
2013 MAZDA MAZDA2 TOURING · 47,600 MILES SALE PRICE $9,695 KBB $9,784
2012 HYUNDAI ELANTRA 56,300 MILES SALE PRICE $9,995 SOLD
2014 MAZDA MAZDA3i 33,200 MILES SALE PRICE $11,895 SOLD
2015 HYUNDAI ELANTRA 30,300 MILES SALE PRICE $12,995 SOLD
2013 HYUNDAI TUCSON 38,900 MILES SALE PRICE $13,595 KBB $13,608
2015 TOYOTA PRIUS V 44,900 MILES SALE PRICE $15,995 KBB $19,032
2013 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SPORT · 28,000 MILES SALE PRICE $16,995 KBB $17,724
2016 HYUNDAI TUCSON 25,900 MILES SALE PRICE $17,995 KBB $18,481
2013 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 26,350 MILES SALE PRICE $17,995 KBB $18,538
2013 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 22,672 MILES SALE PRICE $17,995 KBB $18,737
2013 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 23,100 MILES SALE PRICE $18,995 SOLD
2016 MAZDA MAZDA3s GT 14,700 MILES SALE PRICE $19,995 KBB $21,181
2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON 15,400 MILES SALE PRICE $19,995 KBB $21,609
2016 MAZDA MAZDA CX5 SPORT · 19,500 MILES SALE PRICE $19,995 KBB $20,135
TO LEARN MORE VISIT: WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM
Customers First
TRIPLE J
TRIPLE J MOTORS
Beach Road, Chalan LauLau OPEN Open: Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm • Sat: 8am to 5pm
Tel: 234-7133/234-3051 autosales@triplejsaipan.com WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM
*On Approved Credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2500. While supplies last. 2016 Mitsubishi Lancer ES total price is $15,995. Financed at 6.75% APR for 54 monthly payments of $275.43 per month or $127 per paycheck. Total deferred price is $14,873.22. 2016 Hyundai Accent total price is $11,595. Financed at 6.75% APR for 48 monthly payments of $221.05 per month or $102 per paycheck. Total deferred price is $10,610.40. 2013 Hyundai Tucson price is $13,595. Financed at 7.00% APR for 42 monthly payments of $249.66 or $115 per paycheck. Total deferred price is $10,485.72. All monthly and per paycheck quotations are based on 20% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year.
Like us on facebook
Triple J Motors, Saipan

Ex-PSS chief questions transfer of her suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cynthia I. DeLeon Guerrero, the former Public School System commissioner, is questioning the move of the Board of Education to transfer her lawsuit against them over her termination to the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

DeLeon Guerrero, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, said yesterday that BOE and its members had no reason to have her lawsuit moved to the district court.

She wants her lawsuit remanded to the Superior Court and has asked the district court to require the BOE to shoulder the costs and attorney's fees she incurred because of the removal.

Sers Nicholas said that, based on DeLeon Guerrero's employment contract, the parties agreed that this lawsuit must be litigated in the Superior Court.

Sers Nicholas said that having the case moved is highly questionable.

Special assistant attorney general Tiberius Mocanu filed last Friday a notice of removal of the case to federal court.

Mocanu said that DeLeon's complaint alleges a federal question in the form of violations of federal statutes and the U.S. Constitution.

DeLeon Guerrero is suing BOE and its members for terminating her as PSS commissioner last October, which, according to her, was in retaliation for her questioning the board's micromanagement of PSS and her refusal to request for an unlawful transfer of $175,000 in PSS funds to the board's account.

DeLeon Guerrero filed the lawsuit against the BOE before the Superior Court for wrongful termination and breach of contract.

She is also suing BOE chair MaryLou S. Ada, vice-chair Janice A. Tenorio, secretary/treasurer Herman M. Atalig, member Herman T. Guerrero, and member Florine M. Hofschneider in their individual capacities for alleged conspiracy in depriving her rights to her good name and her property in violation of her Fifth and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.the

DeLeon Guerrero asked the court to hold BOE liable to pay her $350,000 in compensatory damages, and board members Ada, Tenorio, Atalig, Guerrero, and Hofschneider for compensatory and punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

CHCC

From Page 1

It's not so much[about] students get[ting] money to go to school as it is really financial assistance [so] they don't pay for the National Council Licensure Examination or any of the study and review materials," she said.

Birmingham-Babauta said a nursing graduate from NMC who enrolls in the program is given one year to work as a graduate nurse at CHCC.

"This is somebody who hasn't taken the NCLEX yet… This is great for hands-on learners because they get to experience what they see and study from their books and they get two weeks off prior to taking the NCLEX," she said.

While working at CHCC and preparing for the NCLEX, the nursing graduate gets paid for hours put in at the hospital.

"They get paid wages while working at CHCC as they have a contract and they are paid as a graduate nurse. This is a common program in the [United] States too," Birmingham-Babauta said

"In the event they pass the NCLEX exam, they are given a new contract as a licensed registered nurse or licensed nurse practitioner for another two years at CHCC.

"In the event they do not pass the NCLEX, they can retake the exam but that would forfeit [their chance of] working at CHCC because the program is geared to give the new nursing graduates hands-on study paired with textbook study before the NCLEX exam," she added.

In an earlier interview, CHCC CEO Esther Muna said the hospital is working on providing incentives for students who want to pursue nursing and eventually hire them.

"We are finding ways how we can provide incentives for students who are pursuing the course of nursing and we talked about incentives like [student] loan repayment and provide bonuses if you sign a contract with CHCC because giving incentives is a practice in the U.S.," she said.

"We love our [foreign workers] but the reality is we also have the young generation that are coming in who…are passionately pursuing degrees," she added.

Hiring nurses locally is also one of the reasons why CHCC is not aggressively applying for H1-B nurses.

"The law specifically says that if you are going to [petition] a nurse for an H1-B visa…one requirement is that the applicant must have a bachelor's degree. The reason we opted against it is we are basically preserving the pipeline of NMC because, if we are going to require that everyone has a bachelor's degree, then [foreign nurses] that have bachelor's degrees can be processed as H1-Bs," she said.

"If we do that, it means we are blocking the college students that are coming from NMC. We don't want to do that as we want to preserve our pipeline, preserve local hires, and also take care of those who have been here for quite a long time," she added.

Birmingham-Babauta said the program has been effective in terms of cultivating the local workforce.

"I think it's really great that the program is established as we are able to recognize that we have graduate nurses and kind of mimic other jurisdictions out there in how they nurture and handle their graduate nurses," she said

"We're proud that we're able to provide a learning environment for student nurses, especially for those who find it easier to learn what they practice and experience. We see the success of that when they pass the NCLEX on their first try. CHCC is very excited that we are able to offer that kind of learning experience,"

KILILI

From Page 1

aside, for the meantime, rejected CW permit applications pending the fate of S. 2325, or U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) legislation extending the CNMI transitional period for another 10 years.

Sablan simultaneously introduced H.R. 4869, an exact copy of the bill, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Part of Sablan's request would revert U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' reduction of the available CW slots for fiscal year 2019 by just one, as has been done several times in the past.

If Sablan's request is accommodated, USCIS would set the fiscal year 2019 cap at 9,997 instead of 4,999, which USCIS announced in late November 2017.

Sablan noted "significant progress" made toward seeking legislation to extend the transitional period from 2019 to another 10 years, effectively extending essential programs with it such as the CW program and the E-2C investor program. A hearing on Murkowski's bill was held last Feb. 6.

"In light of this progress and the CW application period for fiscal year 2019 soon approaching, I respectfully ask that you adjust the fiscal year 2019 cap to 9,997, consistent with the requirements of existing law," wrote Sablan to Nielsen, referring to the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, which mandates the CW cap to be lower than the previous fiscal year and the six-month period for renewing CW permits, which starts April.

"Alternatively, I request that applications that would otherwise be returned because of the current fiscal year 2019 cap of 4,999, instead be racked, pending the outcome of [S. 2325]," he added.

Sablan cited the testimony of Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech at the Feb. 6, 2018, U.S. Senate hearing. Domenech had recognized the CNMI's need for labor to sustain its economic growth while affirming the "[Trump] administration's policy" prioritizing American employment.

"[S. 2325 and H.R. 4869] addresses both of these concerns," Domenech had said.

S. 2325 seeks to reset the CW cap back to 13,000, extend the transitional period by 10 years, and steadily reduce the CW cap by 500 every fiscal year. It also establishes a new form of CW permit, known as the CW-3 permit, for employees who have been working in the CNMI since fiscal year 2014 and are to be renewed every three years, contrary to the CW-1 permit, which is renewed annually, among many others.

CW-3 permits are renewed provided that the applicant exits the CNMI for 30 consecutive days during the six-month renewal period.

Highlighting the 500 annual reduction, Sablan noted that the reduction was included in the legislation to encourage the replacement of foreign workers with U.S. workers, which he added is a "trend that the Government Accountability Office has reported to be occurring" but cannot be completed at the end of 2019 without "significant economic disruption."

METH

From Page 1

cent David Cabrera Jr. and Eugene Blas Repeki have been formally charged before the U.S. District Court for the NMI and Superior Court.

It is not clear, though, if the case against two other persons have been sealed or if they were released pending further investigation.

Federal court documents submitted by DEA mentioned two unnamed individuals allegedly involved in the laboratory operations at Repeki's house in Dandan and at a room at Saipan Vegas Resort that Cabrera occupied.

Talbot said the DEA began its enforcement operations targeting meth manufacturing and selling activities on Saipan beginning last Sunday. He cited the enforcement aid of the Department of Public Safety, Customs Division, Department of Corrections, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and the Office of the Attorney General.

He said the U.S. Marshals Service and the U.S. Attorney General's Office also provided assistance.

"This investigation is a robust example of local and federal cooperation that effectively leveraged multiple resources with successful results and positively impact the communities of the Northern Mariana Islands," Talbot said.

Talbot said although DEA cannot expound on an ongoing investigation, DEA, which includes its Guam and Saipan task forces, is committed to making communities safe from dangerous drugs and violence, "so all citizens, visitors, and especially our future generations may always enjoy the beauty and peaceful environment this region of the world offers."

TORRES

From Page 1

He said a visit by Murkowski's committee can "look into how to better our system here when decisions are made in Washington, D.C."

It was Murkowski who introduced in the U.S. Senate S. 2325, a bill that proposes to extend the CNMI transitional period to fiscal year 2029, effectively extending essential programs such as the CW program and the E-2C investor program with it.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced at the same time H.R. 4869 in the U.S. House of Representatives. H.R. 4869 is an exact copy of S. 2325.

Murkowski also led the bipartisan, bicameral working group tasked with studying the parameters of the extension.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Committee held a legislative hearing on S. 2325 last Feb. 6, 2018, with Torres, Sablan, several members of the CNMI Legislature, and business leaders attending.

When asked for an update on the legislation, which is currently still under review by Murkowski's working group, Torres remains confident that Congress would scrutinize the legislation closely.

"I know that the…working group would continually look into testimonies," said Torres. "I personally believe that it would continue to move forward. I have every faith that the process is moving along."

With the upcoming April 2018 CW renewal season for fiscal year 2019, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has set the CW-1 cap at 4,999, a significant decrease in anticipation of the current law that sets a deadline of Dec. 31, 2019, on the expiration of the CW program.

Torres said that, while he did not send a letter to USCIS, he said he explained the importance of the legislation back in December 2017.

"…Whether [USCIS is] going to implement [the CW cuts], it would be [implemented] on Oct. 1, 2018. I am hopeful that things will change by then," he said.

In a statement from the Torres administration, it said that the governor has maintained constant discussions with the both U.S. House and U.S. Senate even after the hearing on S. 2325.

Sablan has already sent separate letters to USCIS director Lee Francis Cissna urging them to review employers who applied for CW permits in large volumes and to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen urging them to reevaluate the 4,999 CW cap for fiscal year 2019.

Sablan sent a second letter to Nielsen that took note of the progress made and again urging the agency to reevaluate the pending CW cap cuts.

LIFOIFOI

From Page 2

the motion is factually and legally unfounded and should be denied.

Hanson said Lifoifoi is not seeking to maintain the status quo, as he is improperly seeking to alter the status that has existed for almost 19 years since the daughters became the record owners of Quad L.

Hanson said for the last 19 years, Evangelista and Pangelinan have been the record owners, directors, and officers of Quad L and ran it successfully with the knowledge and approval of Lifoifoi.

Hanson said because Lifoifoi advances legal claims with adequate monetary damage and other legal remedies at law, no injunction may issue.

He said there is no probability of Lifoifoi's success on the merits of his claim that he is still the shareholder of Quad L.

Hanson said Lifoifoi drafted a will in 2002 and did not include any shares in Quad L.

He said Lifoifoi filed legally mandated statements of financial interest for the years 2001-2005 with the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor and did not include any shares in Quad L.

The lawyer said it is clear from Lifoifoi's own conduct that he knew of and consented to the transfer of Quad L to his children.

Advocates of drug use prevention face new threat

The Joey and Friends for Recovery group that advocates for drug rehabilitation and drug use prevention is now working on ways to put methamphetamine or "ice" labs out of business through lessening the island's demand for ice.

During the Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting on Tuesday, Joey Arriola of Joey and Friends for Recovery talked about the organization's current schedule and what they are doing in advocating against illegal drug use and rehabilitation.

Arriola, a recovered drug addict who spent 58 months in prison for conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud, said the distribution of methamphetamine has only gotten worse in the CNMI, comparing the substance to rice because it can be bought nearly everywhere.

With the recent discovery that "ice" is being manufactured in the CNMI, Arriola and his co-advocates have already started exploring ways to counter-attack this new threat in hopes of stopping the creation of more laboratories in the CNMI.

"What fuels this manufacture is the demand, so if we can lessen the demand, we can cure the problem. It's going to be hard, but I know it can be done…That is something our group will be exploring now, finding a different approach. It tells us for sure that we need to up the ante and we need to do more and we know that we can conquer this," he said.

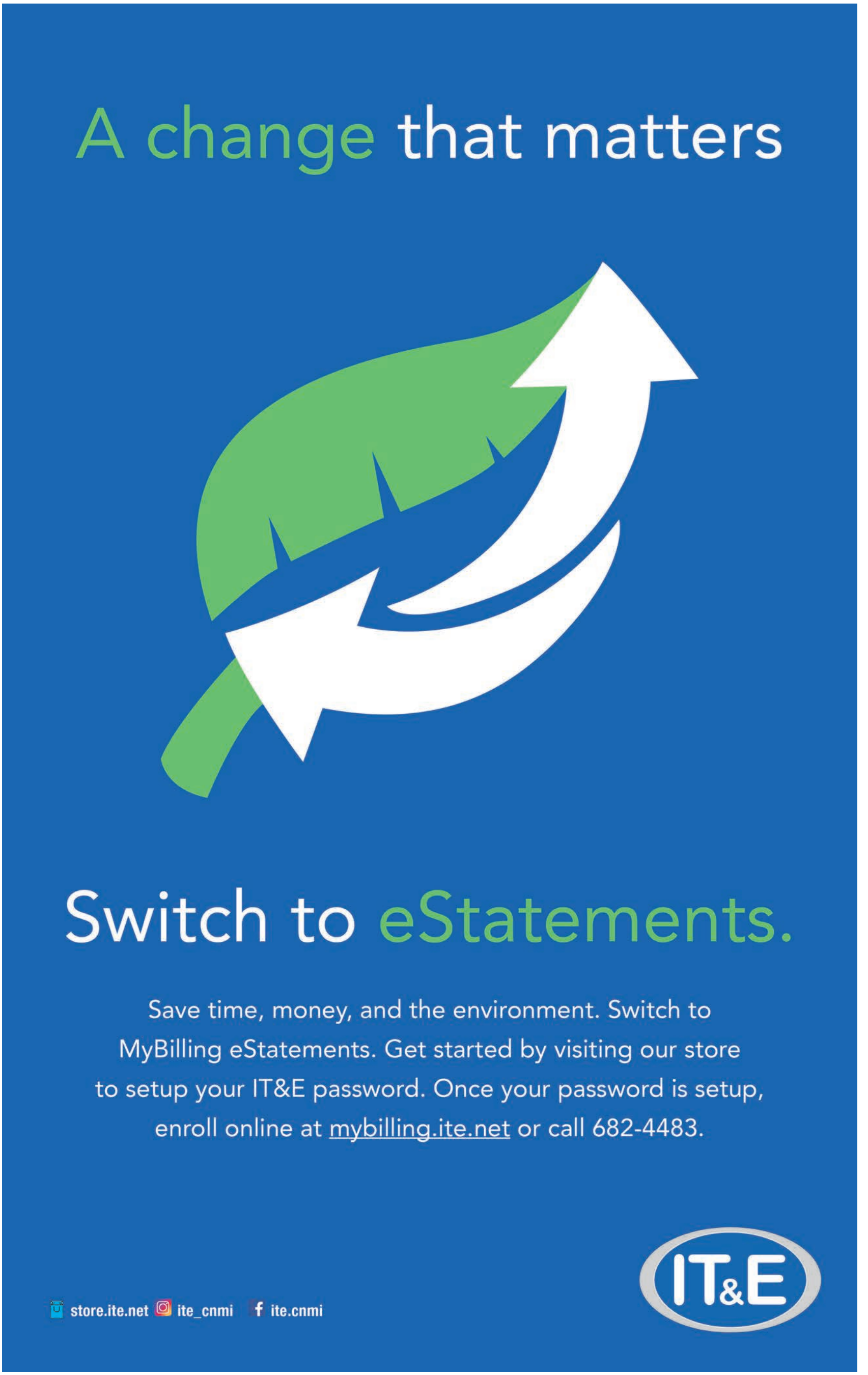
According to Arriola, if advocates like him have been spreading awareness of prevention and rehabilitation before, now is the time to push the cause even more.

"We need to increase the level of awareness; we need to increase the level of prevention because that's what we have to contend with…The penetration in the community is a lot more than we thought so we need to be more vigilant," he said.

Arriola said that advocates alone will not be able to stop the threat of more meth laboratories springing up in the CNMI. It must be a collaborative effort involving the community.

"There is a lot of work ahead but this is the time that we need to step up, not just us in the nonprofit organization but the entire community. Let's partner up because it will only benefit our island," he said.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents and CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Customs officers discovered the two clandestine methamphetamine or "ice" laboratories over the weekend in a house in Dandan and a room at the Saipan Vegas Resort. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***


A change that matters
Switch to eStatements.
Save time, money, and the environment. Switch to MyBilling eStatements. Get started by visiting our store to setup your IT&E password. Once your password is setup, enroll online at mybilling.ite.net or call 682-4483.
store.ite.net
ite_cnmi
ite.cnmi
IT&E

Grants office secures over $5.6M for FY 2017

Since the enactment of Public Law 19-49 in June 2016, the CNMI Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse has seen a significant increase in grant funding awards and utilization.

P.L. 19-49, or the Grants Management Act of 2015, restructures OGM-SC as a single point of contact for grant correspondence and announcements in order to mitigate federal grant compliance issues and improve oversight and grants training throughout the CNMI government.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that formalizing and revising the standards for grants management has drastically improved the fulfillment of grant awards and projects.

He pointed out that, within such a short time, OGM has secured over $5 million in federal funding.

"With our grants team, we now have a greater outlook for future funding awards. …I am pleased by the ongoing progress of our grants team, as well as the continued foresight of our grants administrator," Torres said.

In the past, performance goals and utilization of grants were not met, but this new policy has initiated long-term sustainability for the CNMI government's vital program and services. At the same time, best practices as well as allowable expenditures to supplement the CNMI's budget continue to be examined.

According to OGM-SC Administrator Epiphanio E. Cabrera Jr., several grants have been secured through the Technical Assistance Program, Maintenance Assistance Program, and the Empowering Insular Communities Program under the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, the Community Facilities Grant Program, and the Rural Business Development Grant under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Community Development Block Grant under the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"We've been able to secure more grant funding for the benefit of our community. This is just a portion of the anticipated awards from federal agencies and other grant programs we expect to see in the year ahead.

"I thank our local agencies, federal partners, and the grants team for taking advantage of grant opportunities that enhance our infrastructure and supplement our local funding.

"There is more work ahead of us, but we are pleased to have been able to strengthen our local policies to improve the working relationships with our grantors and increase the outlook of our future endeavors," Cabrera said.

Cabrera added that the over $5.6 million in grants went toward the waste incinerator refurbishment for the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Department of Public Safety patrol fleet, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Saipan groundwater study, the Department of Public Works' roll-off truck for the lower base transfer station, the CNMI *Ma'afala* breadfruit farming program initiative, the sexual assault forensic examiners program, the solid waste management feasibility study, the Kagman farm plot water distribution upgrade, the CNMI Fire & Emergency Medical Services apparatus, the landfill gas extraction feasibility study, the technology enhancement program, the Rota slaughterhouse feasibility study, the CNMI veterans cemetery expansion, the Koblerville youth learning center expansion project, and the coconut rhino beetle detection and eradication on Rota.

Cabrera noted that OGM-SC has also extended its subgranting authority to assist several government departments such as the Department of Commerce, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

"These benefits have all been extended to Tinian and Rota for the betterment of the entire Commonwealth. There is still so much growth ahead and potential to improve our office. In addition to grant writing, we continue to assist with compliance and review. We acknowledge that there are still more granting opportunities we want to avail from as we build our capacity. Looking toward the future, there will be a lot of progress and work to be done," Cabrera said. ***(PR)***

CHC undergoes refresher on pandemic response

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program just finished hosting a two-day seminar on CHCC Strategic National Stockpile at the Azucena Room of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

The workshop on Feb. 27-28 tackled the roles and responsibilities of PHEPP partners such as the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Homeland Security, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, and CHCC and Public Health staff in the event of a national emergency involving bioterrorism or pandemic.

According to Warren Villagomez, PHEPP director and SNS coordinator for the CNMI, the SNS has the capability to supplement and resupply through the Centers for Disease Control.

"SNS is a federal asset under the custody of the Centers for Disease Control and those assets varies when you put in a request on significant emergencies or outbreaks. When we put in a request, CDC determines the importance of the request and how it is carried out," he said.

"It is a significant component of the Emergency Preparedness Program and that's why we try to engage with our partners annually…SNS tabletop workshop is every other year and full scale every three years. We also try to cross-cut on full exercises to integrate other training components [and] other possible disaster that the CNMI could be impacted on," he added.

Villagomez said the SNS tabletop workshop for the CNMI Emergency Preparedness Program for government and non-government agencies grow every year.

"It is an ongoing training. …We have to keep updated as there's a lot of things going on around the region and globally," Villagomez said.

"All these updates and activities in the workshop evolve on situations that are current and significant to people such as the scenario of pandemic influenza… It's a good scenario because we see it in the news in the region and stateside, we encounter it and people may have it or have had it, that is why it is relatable," Villagomez added.

Influenza is just one topic but it covers different layers of potential threats.

Janice McMichael from Georgia is facilitating the two-day seminar and dispensing or distribution of medications will also be tackled.

"We are going to talk about open and closed points of dispensing and the steps to set up and staff a point of dispensing and what the individual's role would be in that scenario," she added

"I think the key is to train and inform as many people as possible to be responders. It is always important to have a written plan for people to have something to go by," she added.

Villagomez said that disseminating information is part of PHEPP's commitment.

"We encourage the public to stay informed and aware," he said.

For more information, call CHCC at 234-8950 and ask for PHEPP.

IT&E reduces paper use

IT&E will launch in Guam and the CNMI today a campaign to promote paper waste management.

Called "A Change that Matters," IT&E CEO Jim Oehlerking said this campaign initiates a small change among IT&E subscribers but with a big impact.

"Going paperless means less trash in our local landfill and less pollutants going into the earth, air, and water. In Guam and the CNMI, land is tied to the hearts and culture of the people," he said. "We're proud to work alongside customers to preserve what matters most."

IT&E believes that customers will save money and time when they subscribe to online billing,

Another benefit is that subscribers will save $3 on their monthly billing by eliminating dependency on paper statements. IT&E assures customer satisfaction because they can still access their latest statements and make payment from their computer at home or work.

Danny Daniel, IT&E's senior manager of brand and public relations, told *Saipan Tribune* that customers were notified of the campaign in the middle of February "using our monthly statements, coupled with in-store dialogue and social media communications."

To get statements online, subscribers are asked to sign up and have their own password for access. Subscribers are also encouraged to visit any IT&E branch to enroll in "MyBilling Statements"

For more information on how to go paperless, call IT&E at (CNMI) 670-682-4483. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

TASI TOURS

REQUEST FOR BID PROPOSALS FOR

TWO (2) 25KVA GENERATORS FOR MANAGAHA ISLAND

Specific Requirements:
Two (2) diesel engines driven 25KVA AC generators, 220V, Three Phase, 4-wire output: 25KVA, 0.8PF. Sound proof type with auto start and stop terminal, anti-rust. ECO Base model with inside oil receiver.

Interested bidders should call David Igitol, at Tasi Tours at 235-9373, to obtain a bid package.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

Amendment No. 2

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM DEVELOPERS

(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: ~~March 02, 2018~~
June 29, 2018* TIME: 10:00 AM**

NMHC RFP 2017-008

"GARAPAN ANNEX PROPERTIES"

Proposal packets will be available on Monday, November 06, 2017, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($2,500.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, money order or cashier's check payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference is scheduled on Friday, December 01, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. Only those individuals who have paid the RFP Package Fee are allowed to attend the pre-proposal conference. All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, Saipan, fax to (670)234-9021, no later than Friday, December 01, 2017, 4:30 p.m. local time.

For more information, contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, at (670) 234-6866/9447 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Aubry Hocog
Board Chairwoman

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public-School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its ICC meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 9:00 am to 11:00 am, at the C*DAC Office, Garapan. This meeting is open to the public; interested individuals are welcome to attend.

Agenda will be distributed out at the meeting.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 322-4545. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/
Margaret Aldan
Chairwoman

/s/
Robin L. Palacios
Director, Early Intervention Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part C Funds.

SAIPAN IS TACOMA TERRITORY

TOYOTA
Let's Go Places

MARCH ON

$0* DOWN
2.90%* APR
60* MONTHS

2018 TACOMA TMAX

- Never Rust Composite Bed
- Rear Backup Camera
- Multi-information touch screen display
- Bluetooth Capability
- Automatic High Beams
- Remote Keyless Entry

FOR AS LOW AS
$25,199*

Plus, Hero 4

FREE* GOPRO
ON SELECTED 4X4 MODELS

*On approved credit. Conditions apply. See dealer for more details. While supplies last. Vehicles not exactly as shown.

SINCE 1914
Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950

Call 234-5911
Showroom Hours: Monday to Saturday 8am to 5 pm

TOYOTA Let's Go Places

HERE FOR SAIPAN. HERE FOR LIFE.

Browse our online showroom - Visit: www.AKsaipan.com

Kilili says the Marianas wants net neutrality

"We know what slow internet can be like in the Marianas, and that is why we want to restore net neutrality for all," declared Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan yesterday.

He is one of 150 Democratic cosponsors for a Congressional Review Act resolution, overturning a recent Federal Communications Commission decision that ended the long-held policy of net neutrality.

Rep. Mike Doyle (D-Pennsylvania) introduced the resolution in the House.

Sen. Edward Markey (D-Massachusetts) introduced the same resolution in the Senate with 50 cosponsors, including Republican Susan Collins of Maine.

The Congressional Review Act gives Congress a small window of opportunity to negate Executive Branch regulatory actions. Last year, the Republican-led Congress used the CRA to get rid of a rule prohibiting people with mental illness from getting firearms and other Obama administration actions.

But with 83 percent of Americans saying they do not approve of the recent Federal Communication Commission rules ending net neutrality, it is now Democrats' turn to use the CRA.

"Net neutrality means internet service providers cannot block or slow down or discriminate against content online," Sablan explained. "Power is in the hands of the internet user.

"Getting rid of net neutrality, as the FCC wants to do, will lead to higher prices for consumers, slower internet traffic, or both. Some websites could be blocked entirely. And startup businesses would not have a chance online against the big companies that can pay extra to get preferential speeds for their sites on the internet."

Last week, the FCC's rule repealing net neutrality was published in the *Federal Register*, leaving 60 legislative days for Congress to act on the CRA resolution blocking the rule from going into effect. ***(PR)***

House OKs restoring benefit to governor, lt. governor

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed Tuesday a bill that restores special retirement annuities for the governor and lieutenant governor that will be retroactive in nature.

The House passed Rep. John Paul Sablan's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-36, HD1 on a vote of 13-5. The bill is co-signed by Reps. Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian) and Glenn Maratita (R-Rota).

Reps. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), and minority leader Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) voted against it.

Reps. Blas "B.J." Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan) and Jose Itibus (R-Saipan) were absent.

H.B. 20-35 seeks to restore special retirement annuities equal to 65 percent of the last annual salary paid the governor or lieutenant governor.

Current law provides that this provision in the Commonwealth Code only allows the governor and lieutenant governor to avail of this special benefit if they served at least one full term in office.

The provision that sets up the percentage governors and lieutenant governors are set to receive has been repealed and, since June 14, 2007, individuals who held these positions have not been receiving retirement annuities.

The bill, however, states that an individual who has served as either a governor or lieutenant governor may receive this benefit even if they serve less than a full term of four years and is retroactive in nature.

Deleon Guerrero, in a brief interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said he was one of the members who amended the section in the Commonwealth Code that refers to special benefits to the governor and lieutenant governor.

The amendment was known as Public Law 15-70.

"P.L. 15-70 repealed the annuity and I was here during the 15th Legislature. I believe I supported that bill [to repeal that section]," he said, adding that all he aimed for was consistency.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* explained his opposition to unfunded liabilities.

"Today, although financial solvency has improved, H.B. 20-36 does not point to a specific funding source to ensure that this does not end up becoming an unfunded liability again. Anytime there's an unfunded liability, we run the risk of public indebtedness," he said.

H.B. 20-36, HD1 now heads to the Senate for review and action.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-18-IFB-010

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CANINE KENNEL FACILITY FOR THE DIVISION OF CUSTOMS SERVICES DANDAN, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Construction of New Canine Kennel Facility for the Division of Customs Services Dandan**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 15, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 6, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the project site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 13, 2018** to **Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days efore the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-18-IFB-010**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time March 16, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 16, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 16, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **March 28, 2018.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, April 2, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 16, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-18-IFB-011

RENOVATION OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE NO. 1223-CNMI WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Renovation of Government House No. 1223-CNMI Women's Association Capitol Hill**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 22, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 13, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the project site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 21, 2018** to **Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-18-IFB-011"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time March 29, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 29, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 29, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 9, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:30 a.m. local time, April 12, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on March 29, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) working calendar** days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

PNG quake killed at least 15, governor says

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A powerful earthquake two days ago killed at least 15 people, injured dozens and brought work to a halt at four oil and gas fields in a remote Papua New Guinea region, the local governor said Wednesday.

His comments were the first confirmation of deaths from a high-ranking official after Monday's magnitude 7.5 earthquake severed communications and blocked roads in the central region, hindering assessment of the scale of the destruction. The National Disaster Centre has declined to give numbers as it assesses the damage.

Southern Highlands Governor William Powi told The Associated Press that communication remains difficult and the death toll may rise. "We are looking at massive, catastrophic havoc and destruction," Powi said.

Four people in the provincial capital, Mendi, were killed when their house collapsed on them and three were killed when their home was struck by a landslide, Powi said. Eight others were killed elsewhere, he said, and the quake's victims included several children and a teenager.

"There are people who are traumatized, people in terrible devastation who have never felt this kind of destruction before," Powi said. "It has really brought a lot of fear into people's lives."

Powi said three oil fields and a liquefied natural gas plant run by ExxonMobil Papua New Guinea have halted operations for now as they assess the damage to their operations.

The quake has also disrupted work at a large gold mine and at coffee plantations in the region.

Powi said many roads remain cut off by landslides and that supplies will need to be airlifted. Many people live subsistence lives in the area, Powi said, and they would be suffering because the quake has destroyed many of their gardens and crops.

He said teams are on the ground assessing the most pressing needs.

"We need massive assistance," Powi said. "We need food, infrastructure maintenance, and to bring comfort to our people who are homeless and displaced."

Australia's government said it was providing a C-130 Hercules to conduct aerial surveillance and provide logistical support.

"We are saddened to hear reports of lives lost and many people being injured," Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said in a statement. "Given the challenging terrain and remoteness of the area, we expect that the extent of the damage will become clearer in coming days."

Aid agencies said they were ready to help but were awaiting more information. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said it had 20 volunteers on standby but that getting accurate information remained difficult.

The quake hit about 89 kilometers (55 miles) southwest of Porgera, the site of a large gold mine that employs more than 2,500. Several strong aftershocks have shaken the region as well.

The quake also caused panic and damaged buildings across the border in eastern Indonesia.

Papua New Guinea is home to 7 million people on the eastern half of the island of New Guinea, to the east of Indonesia. It sits on the Pacific's "Ring of Fire," the arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes and volcanic activity occur.

Mificpa sets tax seminar

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, or Mificpa, is inviting the public to this year's tax seminar on March 3, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, with focus on tax updates for 2012018, changes in tax laws, tax filing requirements, etc.

The seminar will be conducted by David J. Burger, managing partner of Burger, Comer & Magliari.

Registration fee for Mificpa members is $15, inclusive of membership fee, snacks and certificate of attendance. Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee. Registration starts at 7:30am.

To facilitate the question-and-answer portion of the seminar, you can pre-register and turn in your question(s) ahead of time.

For reservation and more details, call or email:

Angie Mamaril at 783-1857 (angiehmamaril@yahoo.com); Lois Manese at 286-8663 (eloisa_manese@yahoo.com); Cris Bucalig at 287-0945 (cris_bong@yahoo.com); Rose Badidoy at 588 0425 (roseannbadidoy@yahoo.com); Butch Ordas at 789-9276 butchordas@yahoo.com); Gloria Balila at 989-6284 (mgmbalila@yahoo.com), Paul Saniel (paulangelosaniel@yahoo.com), or Yho Villavicencio at 285-9017 (yhobowl300@gmail.com). ***(PR)***

Franken Brau to host shamrock-themed SYP mixer

To kick off the St. Patrick's Day weekend, the Saipan Young Professionals is hosting its 2nd Annual SYP "Shamrock & Roll" mixer on March 16, from 5:30pm to 8pm. The event is sponsored by local craft beer maker Franken Brau, Inc.

"Franken Brau truly believes that the future of Saipan lies in our youth. We want to invest our time and efforts into growing young professionals," said Franken Brau Inc. owner Helen Doestch. "Franken Brau, Inc. and SYP have similar goals: to focus on the quality of life, build work ethics, and to promote the growth of small businesses. We are excited to be sponsoring their networking mixer again this year."

"Shamrock & Roll" is the first of four SYP networking mixers that will be held this year at various Chamber-member establishments. "We are promoting SYP to other young professionals and entrepreneurs within this community. We hope that our event will provide a comfortable setting where interested individuals can meet our SYP team to learn about our goals, provide an outlet for community involvement, and to promote small businesses like Franken Brau, Inc." said Beau Tomokane, Delta Air Lines operations service manager and SYP co-chair.

Members of the Saipan Young Professionals pose for a picture at their last mixer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The entrance fee for the event is $10 per person, which includes two free beverages from select beers, free appetizers while supplies last, and one raffle ticket for a chance to win some fun prizes.

SYP will also be hosting fun games for a chance for guests to win prizes. Proceeds will go to upcoming SYP outreach programs and events planned for this year. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, visit the office of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315 or call (670) 234-7150 for more information.

SYP, a committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, is a group of young professionals. If you are interested in joining the SYP committee or for more information contact (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

US district court to host annual conference

The U.S. District Court for the NMI is inviting members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to the 2018 Annual District Conference on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at the Kanoa Resort.

A social event will immediately follow the conference at the Barefoot Bar of the Kanoa Resort, beachside.

The conference will commence with a workshop from 8am to 5pm at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

Keynote speakers for the conference are U.S. Circuit Judge Margaret McKeown of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; David Addington, senior vice president and chief legal counsel at the National Federation of Independent Businesses; and Nelson, Xu, partner in the law firm of Baumann, Kondas and Xu, LLC.

Judges and justices of the Commonwealth Judiciary will also be at the conference.

Complete the registration form online at https://tinyurl.com/ybjryvs2. Early registration is encouraged as seating is limited. For more information, contact Eulalia Arriola, administrative director, CNMI Bar Association, at (670) 235-4528. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/CNMI VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE-18-RFP-004

ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE CNMI VETERANS CEMETERY EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and CNMI Military Veterans Affairs Office are soliciting sealed Proposals for **Architectural & Engineering Design Services for the CNMI Veterans Cemetery Expansion and Improvements Project**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **February 15, 2018** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the **CNMI Military Veterans Affairs Office, Conference Room on March 6, 2018.** Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time March 13, 2018.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Project Team – 15%
2. Capacity – 20%
3. Past Performance – 15%
4. Local Knowledge and Proximity to the Project – 10%
5. Project Approach- 40%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, **§70-30.3-245**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW/CNMI Military Veterans Affairs Office-18-RFP-004". For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **March 16, 2018**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **March 16, 2018**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 16, 2018** – AND must be received no later than **March 28, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

Peter P. Camacho
Acting Secretary of Public Works

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 42

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Arming teachers with guns will backfire

The Herald Editorial Board has had its differences with President Trump, to say the least. Arming teachers, an idea he has so resolutely pushed in the days after the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School is just one more.

We suspect that the president is not fazed by yet another ideological breach. But there are groups out there, some of whom he claims to respect, who, like we do, think giving teachers guns to subdue a killer in the chaos of a mass shooting is a dangerous idea. Maybe they can make a persuasive case to the president. We're with them.

Police chiefs are weighing in. James Craig, who heads the police department in Detroit, is in favor of arming some teachers. He proposes a thorough vetting process, and if the teacher is ex-military or a former law-enforcement officer, so much the better. We think that's a big, and in many schools, possibly an insurmountable "if." New York's police commissioner, Bill Bratton, called arming teachers "the height of lunacy."

Law enforcement professionals, generally, want to leave the firepower to the pros, ensuring that there are properly armed and trained officers on site, the egregious lapses of Broward Sheriff's deputies assigned to Stoneman Douglas, notwithstanding. We don't believe that's the model others will follow.

The statistics, surveys and stories are clear, stark. Young black and brown students, both boys and girls, are disproportionately punished for minor infractions—and punished more severely than their white classmates for the same misbehavior. Remember, this is where the "school-to-prison pipeline" begins, unfortunately.

And this: Studies find that young, white, female teachers are often frightened of black boys, even the youngest of students, no matter the behavior.

So just imagine. Many black parents already have.

Sadly, this is not a constituency that's likely to get this president's ear. He has made his animosity toward African Americans, and Hispanic immigrants and Muslims, perfectly, indisputably clear.

These concerned parents and students need to be heard, but they best take it up at the state and local levels.

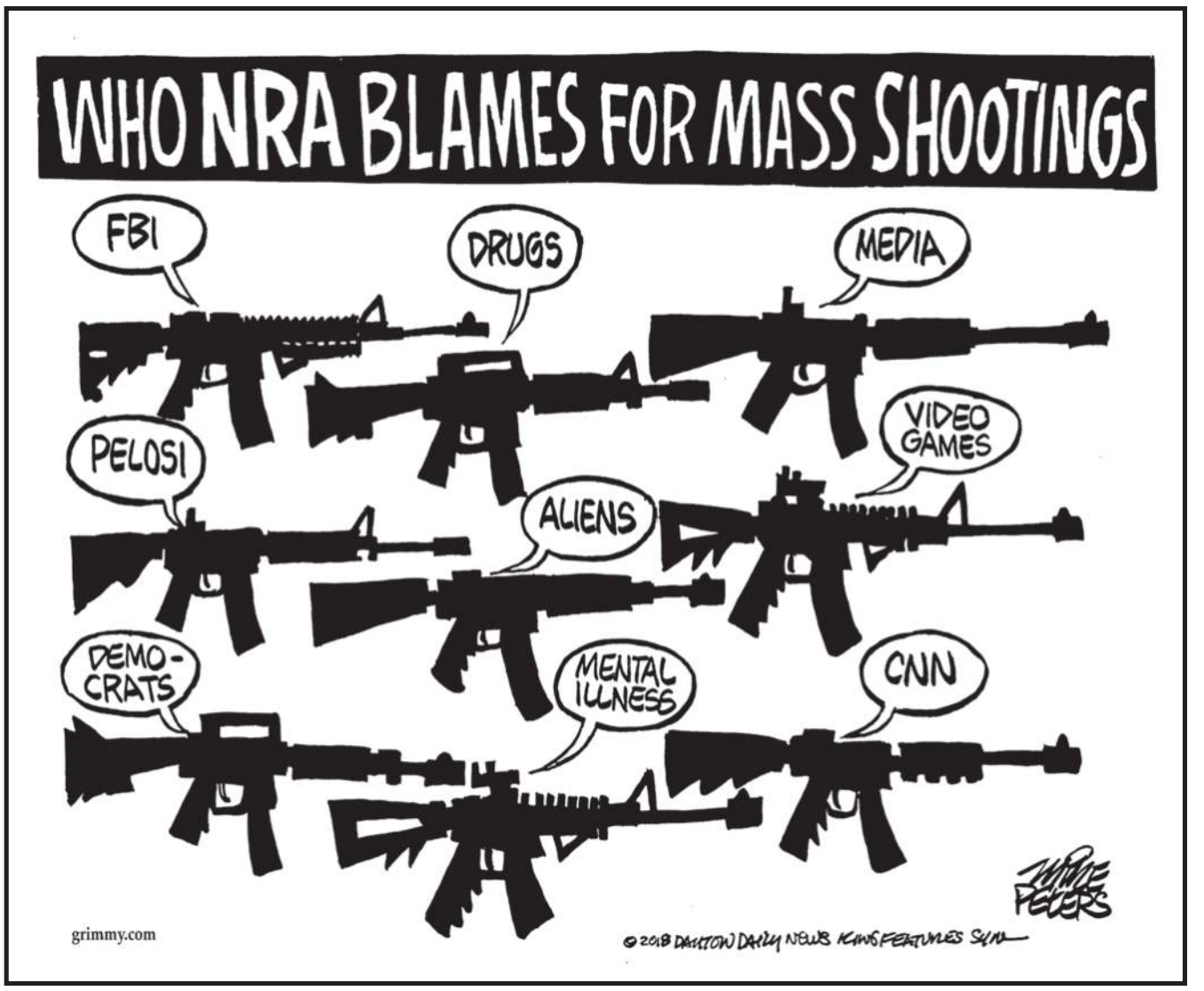
Here's what VoteVets, a progressive veterans organization tweeted about arming teachers: "It increases the chance of kids dying in crossfire, adds to confusion with SWAT teams trying to identify an armed assailant and greatly increases odds of an accidental shooting."

They ought to know.

As awful as the idea of a shooter armed with a semi-automatic, or automatic, rifle is, layering chaos over mayhem is, incredibly, even worse.

In a speech Friday to CPAC, his base, President Trump crowed with the certainty of the clueless, that, "A teacher would have shot the hell out of him before he knew what

See ARMING on Next Page



Stances on guns, immigration reflect the sea change

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online *and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.*

Set aside what you think of guns or immigration as a matter of public policy or even morality. Instead, think of them as dye markers of how our cultural politics and the nature of the two parties have changed over time.

In the 1990s, it was common for Democrats to fret over both illegal and legal immigration. "All Americans," President Clinton said in his 1995 State of the Union address, "are rightly disturbed by the large numbers of illegal aliens entering our country."

Barbara Jordan, the civil rights icon and onetime Democratic congresswoman, headed a commission which concluded that legal immigration rates should be modestly cut.

Meanwhile, countless Republicans championed immigration. "I'm hard-pressed to think of a single problem that would be solved by shutting off the supply of willing and eager new Americans," then-House Majority Leader Dick Armey said in 1995. "If anything ... we should be thinking about increasing legal immigration."

After a 1995 meeting with the National Restaurant Association, newly elected House Speaker Newt Gingrich said, "I think we would be a very, very self-destructive country if we sent negative signals on legal immigration."

Back then, boosting legal immigration was seen by many on the left as a sop to big business. The ruling industrial class allegedly wanted a reserve army of cheap labor. As recently as 2015, avowed socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders sounded downright Bannonesque in telling Vox.com that "open borders" was a "Koch brothers proposal ... a right-wing proposal, which says essentially there is no United States."

Sanders is an intriguing example of how political and cultural currents swirl around us. He won his first bid for Congress in 1990 in part because he received the full-throated endorsement of the National Rifle Association. Sanders, the former mayor of Burlington, Vermont, was noncommittal on an assault-weapons ban while his GOP opponent, Peter Smith, flip-flopped and came out in favor of a ban.

"It is not about Peter Smith vs. Bernie Sanders," the NRA's Wayne LaPierre explained. "It is about integrity in politics."

This history was just one reason why it was amusing to listen to LaPierre at the Conservative Political Action Conference last week railing against the "socialists" determined to grab everyone's guns. The man who helped launch the most prominent American socialist since Norman Thomas suddenly thinks socialism is an existential threat to liberty.

What's going on?

On the immigration front: Democrats are increasingly invested in permissive policies in large part because they've bought into the theory that diverse populations are their key to electoral victories going forward. In dialectic fashion, Republicans are increasingly invested in restrictive policies in large part because they're chasing after ever-larger segments of the white vote.

As for firearms: Democrats passed an assault-weapons ban in September 1994. Even Bill Clinton credited that decision as one of the chief reasons the GOP took back the House two months later.

True or not, the more important consequence was that gun rights increasingly became a partisan issue, and the NRA had little choice but to become an adjunct of the GOP. The dynamic became centrifugal, with Democrats and Republicans becoming ever more defined by the issue.

All of these changes were driven by facts on the ground. To listen to Democrats, Republicans support gun rights because the NRA tells them to. In reality, Republicans support gun rights because their voters tell them to, just as Democratic voters tell their representatives the opposite.

But guns and immigration are not simply drivers of polarization, they are examples of its power. Politics has become a lifestyle, part of the "Big Sort" driving so much in our culture. That's why the NRA's marketing these days has so little to do with gun policy and so much to do with smash-mouth cultural resentments.

These days, if you're a Democrat, you're likely to be a down-the-line Democrat on a host of unrelated issues. Same if you're a Republican. Like our representatives, many of us won't buck party orthodoxy on any matter of importance.

Liberals such as Sanders have talked about "two Americas" for generations, but they worked on the assumption that this divide was class-based. It's not. It's cultural, and the divide is becoming a chasm.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Which students to save is not a choice a teacher should have to make

By THOMAS GREGG
THE BALTIMORE SUN

I'm a Baltimore City Public Schools teacher, veteran of nine years in the U.S. Army, husband and father of twin girls.

I explained to my students the capabilities of an AR-15 recently in class, and told them if anything happens, to stay behind me. It wasn't as easy or as automatic as I thought it would be, but not because of thoughts of my mortality; I've been somewhat fatalistic since the Iraq War. It had more to do with the difficulty of looking in the eyes of young people who were scared, scared that maybe I wouldn't be enough to protect them or that my decision could lead to my own death—or theirs.

One of the choices we're told teachers might have to face in today's reality is whether to let a student into a locked classroom (and thereby possibly let the shooter in as well) or leave that student to face the fire in the hallway. Now, for you manly men out there, the choice might be simple: Choose the group over the individual and just deal with it. But then again, I don't see too many macho types in teaching; they can't handle it. All the yelling, the insecurities, the inconsistencies, the immaturity—it's just too much for them.

I know who teaches: those who care, those who care so much about other people's children that they choose to make personal connections with these young, hormonal proto-people, no matter how frustrating they can be. They have the courage and fortitude to continue to mentor young people, although "failing schools" has been employed in political parlance for so long that many around the country take it for granted that schools and teachers are terrible. In the midst of ever-changing standards, the increasing burden of blame and paperwork, I see teachers every day take time out to listen to a young person when they're having an anxiety attack or give part of their lunch to a student who hadn't eaten that day. I see teachers use every tool in their toolboxes to engage students with the content and skills that will help them be successful in the next steps of life.

I have often heard guns described as tools. They are simply tools, the old saying goes; what someone does with those tools is up to the person. A tool itself is neither good nor bad. What type of job is the tool for, though? Sure, you can use a hammer to kill someone, but you can also use it to build a house. Having worked in demolition during college, I've seen the destructive power of all sorts of tools, destruction specific to the job. What job is the AR-15 for? Why have a weapon that allows a relative amateur to fire dozens of rounds a minute and hit human-sized targets at 100 yards away? For war, obviously—to kill other humans. It certainly isn't to hunt animals; that deer has bolted after your second shot. If you've got one of these rifles, you likely practice on targets that are human shaped. You prepare yourself mentally to shoot another person. That's the job for this tool.

But the zombies aren't really coming (and head shots are hard anyway), and you're not on patrol in Kandahar. You don't need to "take out" as many "hostiles" as you can in the next five minutes. It's just you and this tool that has only one job.

Or it's an angry young man with that tool on one side, and on the other side are children and me or my colleagues or any other teacher you know. Making a choice.

Thomas Gregg is a teacher in Baltimore City. He wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.

Mike Pence's selective piety

By ISSAC J. BAILEY
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Buried under an avalanche of breaking news this month, Vice President Mike Pence gave an impassioned defense of religion.

"The overwhelming majority of Americans enjoy their faith, and we have all different kinds of faith in this country," Pence said during an event broadcast on C-Span. "My Christianity is the most important thing in my life. I try and start every day by opening the good book. My wife and I try to have a prayer together before I leave every morning. I can honestly tell you my faith sustains me in all that I do."

He was responding to a question about a joke comedian Joy Behar cracked during an episode of "The View" on ABC in which she compared Christianity to a mental illness.

"It's one thing to talk to Jesus," Behar said on the popular daytime talk show. "It's another when Jesus talks to you."

"It's just wrong, and it's an insult, not to me, but to the vast majority of the American people who, like me, cherish their faith," Pence said. "It demonstrates how out of touch some in the mainstream media are with the faith and values of the American people, that you could have a major network like ABC permit a forum for invective against religion. It's just simply wrong."

While Pence was defending Christianity, more national news was circulating – about why a porn star believed she was finally free to speak about her alleged affair with Pence's boss, President Donald Trump. A Trump lawyer had admitted to paying her for her silence, though he claimed that neither Trump nor the Trump campaign was a party to the transaction. The New Yorker then published an exhaustive story about another alleged Trump affair, one with the 1998 Playboy Playmate of the Year. She allegedly broke off the months-long affair because she felt guilty for sleeping with a married man – and because Trump said vulgar things about black male sexual anatomy.

Pence had a lot to say about a religious joke by a comedian who is paid to say such things, but nothing about the immoral example his boss has set. It's in stark contrast to when Pence presented himself as deeply devout Christian on a talk show he hosted years ago and declared adultery a serious offense that said something disturbing about leaders who commit such acts.

It's why Pence's words about his faith ring hollower by the day. They sound hypocritical, situational, unprincipled. They also illustrate just how much damage white evangelical Christians have done to the religion they profess to love. They've created a new reality, one in which leaders' actions don't matter, so long as they have the right ideology and can help secure a few long-sought political victories. It underscores why liberal Christians in the South are going to have to lead the flock out of this self-imposed spiritual wilderness.

For too long, Christianity has been presented as the domain of white conservatives, particularly in the South. Their interpretation of the Bible has been taken as the most genuine kind, even when other Christians find no incompatibility with gay marriage and the faith. Journalists and political scientists deemed these conservatives the true values voters, even though black voters cherish Christianity just as much and frequently vote for Democrats.

If religious leaders can make God-centered arguments in favor of an unrepentant man like Trump – and plenty of high-profile white Christian conservatives have – no behavior can be deemed out-of-bounds. It has put a stain on the religion that won't be easily washed away, no matter how piously people like Pence speak about the faith.

Fatherless homes a factor in mass shootings

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

The worst social problem in America today could well be fatherless homes. While there are myriad exceptions, and while fathers in the home can be negligent or actively harmful, the statistics are overwhelming about how children can get cheated out of decent lives by their absence. There is also a connection to an absolute horror. That would be mass shootings, such as the one in Parkland, Fla.

The adoptive father of the 19-year-old killer of 17 people, Nikolas Cruz, died when he was 6, not the usual way in which a son is left without a male role model. Far more often, it is fathers fleeing their responsibilities, the mother never getting married or divorces. But, in the case of Cruz, we still had a struggling mother who needed help and a son as out of control as Dylann Roof or Adam Lanza.

Roof is the white supremacist who slaughtered nine African-Americans in a Charleston, S.C., church. His parents were divorced before he was born. Adam Lanza is the mass shooter who killed his mother and then 20 first graders and six staffers at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. During the previous two years, he had not even talked to his father.

The list goes on and on, as Brad Wilcox will testify. He is a professor and director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia, studied school shootings in 2013 and found all the perpetrators had either had a mother who never got married or had seen a divorce in the family. CNN once looked at the deadliest mass shootings in U.S. history, noting that, of the seven killers under 30, only one had his biological father around his whole childhood.

Consider a joint federal study showing that 63 percent of youth suicides are from fatherless homes; as often as not, mass shooters are simultaneously suicidal. Robert Sampson, a Harvard sociologist, has observed that urban violence is concentrated in neighborhoods with mostly single-parent homes. A Michigan State University study found 75 percent of examined adolescent murderers were from fatherless homes. The Centers for Disease Control says 85 percent of children with behavioral disorders have only a mother in the home. Wilcox also says children with both married parents around are less likely to drop out of school, to become drug addicts or to grow up impoverished.

Vast numbers of children from single-parent homes – that's now 42 percent of all children – can and do clearly shine bright, thank heavens. The idea here is not to prejudge anyone. But this nation is kidding itself if it does not recognize that a strong nuclear family is the fundamental foundation of society, that America in recent decades has been witnessing dissolution of the family and that this goes to the heart of so much that has gone wrong.

Some like to put the blame on poverty, but single-parent homes are often an instigator of poverty and comparisons of poor children in two-parent homes and one-parent homes show poverty alone is not the issue. Some also consider it demeaning to say a woman cannot always do it all by herself, leaving out the truth that it can be unbelievably cruel to a woman to expect her to. Government programs are nowhere near the solution some believe they are.

Yes, as I have already mentioned, there can be bad fathers, but the good ones, the involved ones, have so much to offer. And just as mothers bring something special to the raising of children, so do fathers. To turn our backs on marriage, to suppose that cohabitation is just as good, is to turn our backs on children—and on the victims of mass shootings.

There are many other factors in mass shootings, of course, and they need addressing. Cultural change is arduous and slow with no easy political answer. But much will stay the same if nothing is done about fatherless homes.

ARMING

From Page 10

happened," had an armed adult confronted teenage killer Nikolas Cruz at Stoneman Douglas.

Teachers aren't buying it. They've got enough to do besides take down a deranged gunman. They've proven their bravery time and again in such school shootings across the country shielding their students, as three late educators did in Parkland, with their bodies.

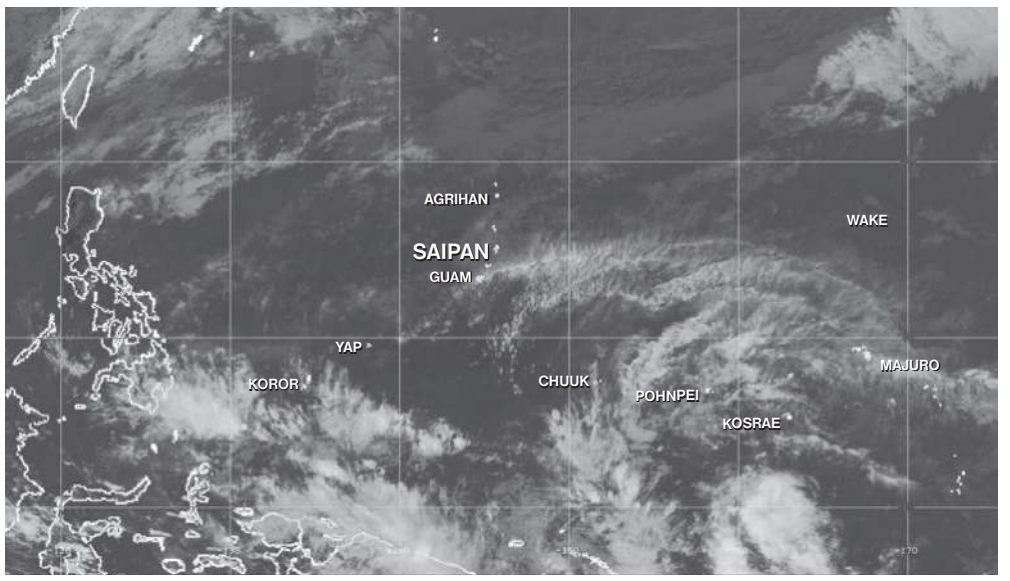
(c)2018 *Miami Herald*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:30 AM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergence to the north of a disturbance near Pohnpei has brought cloudiness and some showers this morning, mainly offshore of Guam. Guidance suggests isolated showers in the morning, then potentially a break and possibly another shot during the afternoon. Today`s guidance has come in lighter on winds and the overall dry pattern will continue. Several disturbances are forecast to move to the south, mainly south of 10N but no significant weather features are expected to impact the Marianas into early next week. Wind is expected to increase over the weekend as high pressure build over the Pacific.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	73° / 68°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	52° / 27°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 68°
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 72°
London	Snow Shower	34° / 30°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	60° / 51°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	77° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	79° / 71°
New York	Rain	54° / 41°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	52° / 36°
Paris	Snow Shower	37° / 34°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	48° / 36°
Rome	Showers	54° / 48°
Salem	Thunderstorm	74° / 45°
San Francisco	Rain	53° / 41°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	41° / 27°
Tokyo	Sunny	57° / 39°
Washington, DC	Showers	54° / 42°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:05 AM	HIGH TIDE	-0.43
7:50 AM	LOW TIDE	2.01
1:34 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.88
6:49 PM	LOW TIDE	2.05

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:34 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:33 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:43 am	5:42 pm
Friday	-	6:34 am	6:41 pm
Saturday	-	7:21 am	7:38 pm
Sunday	-	8:06 am	8:33 pm
Monday	-	8:49 am	9:26 pm

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Customers First
TRIPLE J

TRUCKLOAD SALE

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS!

STORE HOURS: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 11AM TO 7PM • SATURDAY 9AM TO 7PM

NUVISION 10.1" 6.0 ANDROID TABLET

$99.95

HAMILTON BEACH 1.1 CU. FT. MICROWAVE

$79.95

BETTER CHEF 7PC DELUXE COOKWARE SET

$25.95

HAMILTON BEACH WAVE ACTION BLENDER

$35.95

DEAL OF THE WEEK

OSTER XL DIGITAL TOASTER OVEN

$79.95

BETTER CHEF .75LTR. CITRUS JUICER

$13.95

DANBY 45PINT DEHUMIDIFIER

$269.95

AVANTI 7.4 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR

$499.95

DANBY BEVERAGE CENTER

$299.95

CONSERVATOR 3.5CUBIC TOP LOAD WASHER

$549.95

CROSLEY 10CU. CHEST FREEZER

$399.95

Customers First TRIPLE J FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Scan QR code to LIKE our Facebook page and get the latest deals and products!

For more info, please call: 322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Customers First TRIPLE J

TRUCKLOAD STORE direct from KMART

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS! • STORE HOURS: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 11AM TO 7PM • SATURDAY 9AM TO 7PM

$149.95
DEJUNO PARIS NIGHTS 3PC HARDCASE LUGGAGE SET
$29.95
EVEREST WHEELED BACKPACK

STOR 4 TIER WIRE SHELF
$55.95
HOMZ 3 DRAWER CART
$24.95

$26.95
INTEX INFLATABLE ULTRA LOUNGE CHAIR

ESSENTIAL HOME 5 SHELF BOOKCASE
$49.95

$8.95
MEDIUM SIZED MEMORY FOAM PILLOW

ASSORTED PLASTIC 5 DRAWER DRESSER
10% OFF
QUEEN SIZE QUILT
$15.95

$24.95
KENMORE 12" TABLE FAN

HAMILTON BEACH 12 CUP COFFEEMAKER
$24.95

MAGIC BULLET 11PC
$54.95

SEIKI 55" LED 2160P 4K WIFI TV RFB.
$589.95
*Satisfaction Guaranteed-90 Days Warranty applies

$26.95
PROCTOR SILEX 4 SLICE TOASTER

$14.95
FOOD WARMER

ESSENTIAL HOME OFFICE TASK CHAIR
$34.95

HEALTH O METER DIAL SCALE
$26.95

$99.95
COSCO 5PC VINYL TABLE & CHAIR SET

RICE CONTAINER
$14.95

BRENTWOOD 1.5LTR ELECTRIC KETTLE
$24.95

FOLDING LOUNGE CHAIR
$29.95

WESLO CARDIO STRIDE MANUAL TREADMILL
$159.95

POULAN GAS CHAINSAW
$169.95

$15.95
FOLDING DRYING RACK

RUBBER WELCOME DOORMAT BLACK
$3.95

$10.95
OVAL CARPET

$28.95
LEVEL LOOP 5'X7' AREA RUG

$26.95
FOLDING CAMPING COT

$239.95
JOOLA 4PC TABLE TENNIS

$129.95
PACIFIC EVOLUTION 20" BICYCLE

BABYLAND POWER WHEEL JEEP
$139.95

FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Scan QR code to LIKE our Facebook page and get the latest deals and products!

For more info, please call: 322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Tinian leader credits CIP office for island projects

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, along with wife Connie, far right, and chief of staff Allen Perez, far left, present a plaque of appreciation to the Capital Improvement Projects office on Friday, Feb. 23, 2018.

If you take a quick drive around the island of Tinian, you would see a number of ongoing construction sites and facilities sporting new renovations. These projects are results of concerted government efforts to improve the island's public facilities. However, none would have been possible without the Capital Improvement Projects Office under the Office of the Governor.

In the last four years the CIP office has provided support for over $7 million in capital improvements on Tinian. Support from the office comes in the form of project management and coordination, as well as prioritization of Tinian projects in the state's capital improvement agenda.

One of CIP's most notable accomplishments is the completion of the Tinian International Airport renovation project. The island celebrated the airport's ribbon-cutting ceremony in January 2018 alongside CNMI and Guam officials, as well as guests from Hong Kong, who arrived at the ceremony on the first international flight to land on Tinian.

The CIP office has also been instrumental in the construction of a 500,000-gallon water tank at the Carolinas Heights and the Tinian Solid Waste Transfer Station, both of which will be completed in 2018.

"Projects such as the Tinian airport, the 500,000-gallon water tank, and the Tinian transfer station are crucial to our municipality's long-term health and development," said Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas. "On behalf of the people of Tinian, I'd like to extend my thanks to the CIP office for implementing these very important projects. The Tinian leadership is especially grateful to Vicky Villagomez, Elizabeth Balajadia, and Nerissa Benavente for their dedication and attention to the island of Tinian. We would not see these developments come to fruition without their continuous support."

The Tinian leadership looks forward to utilizing Tinian's upcoming CIP funding to establish a water distribution system at the West San Jose homestead.

Other CIP-led Tinian projects include the procurement of a tractor for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources on Tinian; a feasibility study on the Tinian breakwater; and renovations to the Tinian DPS building, the Tinian liaison office, the Tinian youth center, the Tinian Gaming Commission, and the Tinian Little League baseball field. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tumon Bay Music Festival returns

The 10-day Tumon Bay Music Festival, brought to you by the Guam Territorial Band Society and presented in association with the stations of kUAM, *Uno* magazine and Yahama Music Center Guam, is celebrating its 14th year of promoting musical arts in the Marianas.

Come and enjoy the music at venues across central Guam beginning March 1 and ending with the grand finale concert on March 10 featuring the combined choir, festival honor bands and the Tumon Bay International Wind Orchestra.

Go to tbmfguam.org now to find the latest information on performance schedules, venues and ticket information.

Free business seminar for veterans & spouses

The CNMI Military/Veterans Affairs Office and the Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business seminar called "Reboot to Business" at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Azucena Room on March 26, from 9am to 4pm, presented by Dennis Kwak, director, Veterans Business Outreach Center of the Pacific. To register, contact Velma Del Rosario at 664-2650 or visit https://sbavets.force.com/s/. ***(PR)***

Guam naval base sets force protection drill

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam will conduct a Force Protection Condition drill on March 6, from 9am to 2:30pm.

Multiple entry control points, to include the main gate, will be closed from 9am to 10am. There will be no inbound and outbound traffic during this time with the exception of emergency vehicles. From 10am to 2:30pm, all inbound traffic will be directed to Post 2, the commercial vehicle entrance near Visitor Control Center, and all outbound traffic will routed to the back gate. The Naval Hospital gate will not be affected during this drill.

There will be increased traffic around base and delays in base access. Employees, residents, and patrons of NBG are advised to plan accordingly and to monitor NBG social media for updates during the drill.

During the exercise, the FPCON will be elevated requiring full ID card checks at the gates. Additionally, the Trusted Traveler program—a program that authorizes DoD ID card holders to escort guests onto NBG—will be suspended during the higher FPCON. All vehicle occupants will be required to provide an approved base access credential.

The drill is designed to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security forces to respond to threats to installations and units. It is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly scheduled exercise. ***(PR)***

Free seminar on business plan

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business seminar called "How to Write a Business Plan" at the Commonwealth Development Authority boardroom on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 from 8:30am to 10am. It will be presented by Nicole Babauta, director/business adviser, CNMI SBDC. To register, contact the CNMI SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events. ***(PR)***

Art-in-the-Park at the AMP

In March and April, the American Memorial Park is partnering with artists and organizations to provide free art classes to the community under the 2nd annual Art-in-the-Park series. All ages are welcome.

There will be banana painting with Joy Rankin Santos on March 10, from 9am to 12pm. The Carolinian Affairs Office will teach beading on March 24, from 9am to 12pm. Kimberly Mendiola will teach watercolor painting on April 7, from 9am to 12pm.

At the end of the art sessions, on April 21, artwork will be displayed at the Visitor Center for the National Park Week. Space is limited so register soon! To register for a class, visit the American Memorial Park Visitor Center. The center is open daily from 9am to 5pm. For questions contact ranger Brooke Nevitt or education specialist Jovanna Mafnas at 234-7207x2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(NPS)***

Power interruption on March 3

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, March 3, 2018, from 7am to 12pm to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to replace three 55-foot concrete poles with three 45-foot concrete poles along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in San Roque. The outage will affect San Roque and As Matuis, and also water wells MQ-1, MQ-5, MQ-8, MQ-9, MQ-10, MQ-13, MQ-14, MQ-15, and MQ-16. Two wastewater lift stations—SR-land SR-2—will be affected, while water services to San Roque, Tanapag, and As Matuis will be interrupted during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(CUC)***

OPA ethics presentation on Rota, Tinian

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting ethics presentations on Rota and Tinian. OPA staff will be on Rota today, March 1, 2018, at the Northern Marianas College Rota Instructional Site, Room A-1 and on Tinian, March 9, 2018, at the Northern Marianas College Tinian Instructional Site, Room D. There will be a morning and afternoon session on each island at 10am and 2pm. If an agency or group of government employees are interested in the presentation, contact the Office of the Public Auditor at telephone number (670)322-6481/2.

While on Rota and Tinian, the staff of the OPA will be notarizing and accepting filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials. All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. ***(OPA)***

SCC now accepting scholarship applications

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for its Educational Scholarship Fund. Hard copies of the Chamber scholarship applications are available at the Chamber office and can also be delivered to schools upon request. Applicants are encouraged to complete the application which are due on or before 5pm on Friday, April 20, 2018, at its office in the Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315. The scholarships will be awarded at the Chamber's monthly general membership meeting on June 6, 2018. Chamber scholarship applications are also available on the website, www.saipanchamber.com. For more information call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Public comments sought for OVR state plan

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council invites the public to share comments regarding the updates/modifications to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act's Office Vocational Rehabilitation services portion of the 2016-2020 unified state plan.

The CNMI OVR is providing an opportunity for public comment on, and input into, the updates/modification prior to its submission to the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Education-Rehabilitation Services Administration. The modified plan can be viewed at the OVR website, ovrgov.net, and electronic copies can also be emailed upon request.

All comments regarding the plan should be submitted:

via email to: nmidir@ovrgov.net

Subject: State Plan Public Comments

or mailed to: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Attn: USP Coordinator

P.O. Box 501521, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 322-6548

To ensure comments are considered, they must be received no later than 4:30pm on March 8, 2018. Contact Elvira Seman with requests for alternate formats at 322-6537/8. ***(PR)***

2018 lunar calendars now available

The 2018 traditional lunar calendars for Hawaii and the CNMI are now out. The intent behind these calendars is to raise awareness about traditional ecological knowledge and enhance community involvement in fishery management. Download and print the PDF copies of the calendars. The American Samoa and Guam calendars will be available soon. ***(PR)***

Business

Companies face more pressure to pick a side in gun debate

NEW YORK (AP)—As the gun debate heats up following the massacre at a Florida high school, companies are under growing pressure to pick a side: whether to stand by the National Rifle Association or walk away.

Metlife, Delta and more than a dozen others have decided to end benefits deals offered to the organization's members. Others, including FedEx, are staying put. The decision to stay or go for many companies involves walking a fine line that can impact their image for better or worse.

"How well can they position themselves so that they're being viewed as honest and supportive of what is a national crisis and not walking away from the Second Amendment?" said Robert Passikoff, president of Brand Keys, a consumer research firm.

The calls for boycotts have been cutting both ways, with gun rights and gun-control supporters threatening to take their dollars elsewhere, depending on a company's decision.

FedEx is the latest company to respond to consumer pressure, saying it will maintain its discount for NRA members and supports the right to own firearms, but does not believe civilians should own assault rifles.

That response shows the nuances many companies are dealing with in the current debate over guns. Several other companies have also affirmed support for gun rights, but decided to cut ties with the NRA over its positions.

AP

This Aug. 22, 2017 file photo shows FedEx trucks parked in New York.

Over the weekend, Delta said it would end its discount rates deal for NRA members' group travel and requested it be removed from the organization's website. But, it also said it continues to support the Second Amendment.

Delta's balancing act in particular sparked a harsh response from Georgia's Republican Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle. He threatened to use his position to derail the $38 million-per-year sales tax exemption on jet fuel that would primarily benefit Delta Air Lines, calling it an attack on conservatives. Delta is based in Atlanta.

The NRA has also pushed back, calling the departure of its corporate partners a "shameful display of political and civic cowardice."

Other companies that have cut ties with the NRA include First National Bank of Omaha, Hertz, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Best Western, Wyndham, United Airlines, Chubb, and Starkey Hearing Technology. Still, many others have maintained their relationship, including FedEx and the less-well-known Hotel Planner and eHealth.

The decisions come during an uptick in consumer activism, fueled by social media empowering more people to voice their opinions and values. Companies have become more aware of public sentiment that can be amplified over Twitter and other platforms.

Powell's bullish outlook on US economy rattles markets

WASHINGTON (AP)—New Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell delivered a message Tuesday that wasn't quite what Wall Street had expected: The U.S. economy is doing well, maybe even better than he thought late last year.

Powell emphasized in his first Congressional testimony that the central bank plans to raise rates gradually. Nonetheless, his growing optimism about the economy rattled investors. Treasury yields climbed and stocks fell amid fresh speculation that the Fed would accelerate the pace of hikes in its benchmark policy rate this year. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 299 points.

The Fed raised rates three times in 2017 and had projected in December that it would raise rates another three times this year. However, many private economists said they now expected the Fed will boost rates four times this year rather than three.

"My personal outlook for the economy has strengthened since December," Powell said when asked whether the Fed might boost its projection for rate hikes from three to four when it updates its outlook next month.

Powell would not say whether the Fed's projection for rate hikes would change. But he noted a number of ways that the economic outlook has improved since December, including stronger data on growth and inflation, the passage of a $1.5 trillion tax cut in late December and an increase in government spending in a January budget deal.

Powell said that he would not speculate on whether the number of hikes would be boosted since any change will depend on the individual forecasts of each of the 15 members of the Fed's policy committee.

But private economists said they saw Powell's comments as a strong signal that the Fed will be raising its rate forecast at its next meeting in March.

Powell's comments came as he delivered the Fed's semi-annual monetary report to the House Financial Committee. He will appear before the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday.

His reception before the House panel stood in marked contrast to how the committee interacted with Janet Yellen. Republicans often challenged Yellen, a Democrat, during exchanges in which she was often interrupted by male lawmakers who dismissed her answers on a wide variety of topics.

A frequent flash-point was Yellen's objection to GOP-sponsored legislation to limit the Fed's independence by requiring the Fed to follow a specific monetary rule in setting interest-rate policies.

Nation

ON CHALLENGE TO MEXICO BORDER WALL

Taunted judge sides with Trump

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A judge who was taunted by Donald Trump during the presidential campaign sided with the president Tuesday on a challenge to building a border wall with Mexico, removing what could have been a major obstacle to the signature campaign pledge.

U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel rejected arguments by the state of California and advocacy groups that the administration overreached by waiving laws requiring environmental and other reviews before construction can begin. Plaintiffs in the lawsuit said a 2005 a law that gave the Homeland Security secretary broad authority to waive the reviews had expired.

Trump berated Curiel during the campaign for his handling of fraud allegations against now-defunct Trump University, suggesting the Indiana-born judge's Mexican heritage reflected a bias.

Curiel mentioned his roots in his 101-page ruling Tuesday when he cited another native of the state, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote in another case that courts should not make policy judgments.

"The court cannot and does not consider whether the underlying decisions to construct border barriers are politically wise or prudent," Curiel wrote.

The lawsuit was the first major legal challenge to the wall under Trump and the latest legal challenge to fail over the years.

The Center for Biological Diversity, which sued along with the state of California and three advocacy groups, said it would appeal.

"They're giving unprecedented, sweeping power to an unelected agency chief to ignore dozens of laws and crash through hundreds of miles of spectacular borderlands," attorney Brian Segee said, referring to the head of Homeland Security. "This is unconstitutional and shouldn't be allowed to stand."

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said, "We will evaluate all of our options and are prepared to do what is necessary to protect our people, our values, and our economy from federal overreach."

The Animal Legal Defense Fund said it may ask the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene. The Sierra Club said the environmental and other reviews are critical to protecting border communities, but the group didn't discuss its next step.

U.S. Justice Department spokesman Devin O'Malley welcomed the decision, saying Congress granted authority to build a wall without delay and that the administration is pleased it can continue "this important work vital to our nation's interests."

Homeland Security spokesman Tyler Houlton added, "Simply put, walls work."

The decision came days after construction began on a 30-foot (9.1-meter) high barrier in Calexico, California, the administration's first wall project outside of eight prototypes in San Diego that were completed in October.

The administration has issued three waivers since August, two to build in parts of California and one in part of New Mexico. President George W. Bush's administration issued the previous five waivers, allowing the government to quickly extend barriers to about one-third of the border.

The Center for Biological Diversity said in its lawsuit that the waiver authority cannot be interpreted to last forever. California argued that it expired in 2008, when Homeland Security satisfied congressional requirements at the time on how much wall to build.

Kushner security status reduced, cutting access to secrets

WASHINGTON (AP)—The security clearance of White House senior adviser and presidential son-in-law Jared Kushner has been downgraded, significantly reducing his access to classified information, according to two people informed of the decision.

Kushner had been operating with an interim clearance at the "top secret/sensitive compartmented information" level for more than a year. Now he is authorized to access information only at the lower "secret" level, according to a White House official and a person familiar with the decision, both of whom spoke on condition of anonymity. Neither source was authorized to discuss the decision publicly.

Tuesday's news set off rampant speculation among Trump allies that Kushner's days in the White House might be numbered. On the same day, the departure of a third Kushner ally in the West Wing in as many months was announced. And the selection of a Kushner ally to serve as Trump's 2020 campaign manager appeared to suggest the campaign could provide Kushner with a convenient place to land after his White House duties end.

Kushner lost his access to the nation's deepest secrets after chief of staff John Kelly ordered that White House officials with interim clearances pending since before June 1, 2017, be cut off if they hadn't received permanent clearances by last Friday. A White House official confirmed to The Associated Press that Kelly's order has been implemented.

President Donald Trump could have reversed Kelly's decision and unilaterally offered Kushner a clearance, but deferred to Kelly. Kushner is one of dozens of White House aides who have been working without permanent security clearances for the better part of a year.

His attorney told the AP that Kushner's ability to do his job won't be affected by any change to his clearance.

"Those involved in the process again have confirmed that there are dozens of people at Mr. Kushner's level whose process is delayed, that it is not uncommon for these clearance reviews to take this long in a new administration, and that the current backlogs are now being addressed," said Peter Mirijanian, a Kushner spokesman.

Kushner's portfolio once included the U.S. relationships with China and Japan and a host of domestic priorities, including infrastructure, trade and economic development. But his free-wheeling reach in the foreign policy space—which was viewed as undermining Secretary of State Rex Tillerson—already had been curtailed somewhat under Kelly.

Asia

Saying 'Me Too' in Japan has risk of being bashed, ignored

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese women who say "Me too" do so at their own risk.

Online comments accused Rika Shiiki of lying and being a publicity hound when she tweeted that she lost business contracts after refusing to have sex with clients. Some said that by agreeing to dine with a man, she led him on.

"The comments I received were disproportionately negative," the 20-year-old university student and entrepreneur told a TV talk show in December. "We need to create a society where we can speak up. Otherwise sexual harassment and other misconduct will persist forever."

The #MeToo movement has not caught on in Japan, where speaking out often draws criticism rather than sympathy, even from other women.

In a patriarchal society where women have long taken the blame, many victims try to forget attacks and harassment instead of seeking support and justice, said Mari Miura, a political science professor at Sophia University in Tokyo.

"Japan lacks such a sisterhood," she said. "It's an exhausting and intimidating process. ... It's quite natural that victims feel reluctant to speak up."

One woman, journalist Shiori Ito, went public last year. She held a news conference after prosecutors decided not to press charges against a prominent TV newsman whom she had accused of raping her after he invited her to discuss job opportunities over dinner and drinks in 2015.

Many online comments criticized her for speaking out, looking too seductive and ruining the life of a prominent figure. Some women called her an embarrassment, she told The Associated Press.

AP

In this Oct. 27, 2017, photo, Shiori Ito, a journalist, who says was raped by a prominent TV newsman in 2015, talks about her ordeal and the need for more awareness and support for the victims in Japan, during an interview in Tokyo.

The October release of Ito's book "Blackbox" detailing her ordeal came as the #MeToo phenomenon was making headlines in America. It prompted some discussion in Japan, but only a handful of other women came forward.

"Many people think Shiori's problem has nothing to do with them ... and that's why #MeToo isn't growing in Japan," said lawyer Yukiko Tsunoda, an expert on sex crimes. In Japan, sexually assaulted women are traditionally called "the flawed," she said.

Nearly three quarters of rape victims said they had never told anyone, and just over 4 percent had gone to police, according to a 2015 government survey. The study found that one in 15 Japanese women had been raped or forced to have sex.

Victims often shy away from going to court out of fear, privacy concerns or losing jobs, Tsunoda said.

Justice Ministry statistics show only one-third of rape cases go to court, and punishment is not severe. Of the 1,678 people tried for sexual assault in 2017, only 285, or 17 percent, were sentenced to prison for three years or longer. In November, Yokohama prosecutors, without saying why, dropped the case against six students from a leading university who had been arrested for the alleged gang-rape of a teenage female student after getting her drunk. The university expelled three of them.

Popular writer Haruka Ito, who goes by the pen name Ha-Chu, was criticized after revealing in December that she had faced sexual and other harassment by a senior male employee when both worked at Dentsu, Japan's largest advertising agency.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine chief justice expects to be impeached, win trial

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A spokesman for the chief justice on the Philippine Supreme Court says she expects to be impeached by the House of Representatives next month and will go on indefinite leave to prepare for the trial. Spokesman Jojo Lacanilao said at a news conference that Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno will start her leave Thursday but is confident of being cleared of any wrongdoing during the impeachment trial. Lacanilao stressed the chief justice will not resign amid reports that rival justices demanded she quit in a meeting. Lacanilao said Wednesday any effort to remove the chief justice outside of an impeachment trial is unconstitutional. President Rodrigo Duterte has said he wanted Sereno and an anti-graft prosecutor impeached and accused them of allowing themselves to be used to discredit his administration.

Victims group shuns Indonesia attacks reconciliation event

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—One of the main Indonesian groups for survivors of terror attacks has refused to participate in what it says is a flawed government-organized "reconciliation" meeting between former Islamic militants and victims. The three days of meetings between dozens of ex-militants and victims has its finale on Wednesday with speeches by seven government ministers, singing of the national anthem, prayers and screening of videos showing parts of the previous two days, which were closed to the media. Sucipto Hari Wibowo, co-founder of the Indonesian Survivors Foundation, said the government has good intentions but many survivors have yet to come to terms with what happened to them let alone face the people responsible. He says the rights of victims are "more important than a reconciliation held under the spotlight."

World

Takeover of military in Rio sparks fears of police brutality

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—One by one, three black Brazilian men matter-of-factly give tips for interacting with police that sound very much like "the talk" that many black Americans have with their sons.

Don't carry a long umbrella. Don't make any sudden movements. Don't leave home without receipts for anything valuable you're carrying. Those are three of the many suggestions offered in the popular video that was posted online in mid-February amid a military takeover of Rio de Janeiro's security forces.

It underscores fears that the intervention will trample the civil rights of poor people, particularly blacks, and lead to more police brutality. It also exposes a deep divide between Rio residents in affluent parts of the city and those who live in marginalized neighborhoods—who are both the primary victims of criminal violence and the attempts to crack down on it.

Rio's police force is already one of the most deadly in the world: 925 people were killed during police operations in 2016, according to the think tank Brazilian Public Security Forum, and initial tallies by human rights groups put the 2017 number over 1,000.

The intervention "will not solve criminality or drug trafficking," said Spartakus Santiago, a 23-year-old who works in advertising in Rio and is one of the video's creators. "It will increase the fear of people who live in these communities, innocent people who are not involved with crime."

On the rise for at least two years, violence in Rio appeared to reach a tipping point during Carnival celebrations this month, when thieves were caught on film chasing and beating victims along the city's picturesque beachfront.

The governor pleaded for federal help, and President Michel Temer issued a decree that put a military commander in charge of Rio's police. The measure has already put thousands of soldiers in the streets and is expected to sharply increase operations against drug-trafficking gangs that largely operate in favelas, or poor areas.

Whether such a measure is necessary is the focus of a heated debate. Congress overwhelmingly approved Temer's decree, though opposition leaders accused him of using the measure to improve his —he currently has a 9 percent approval rating—ahead of elections later this year. Temer denies that.

Security experts point out that many cities and states in Brazil have even higher levels of violence than Rio. Gen. Walter Braga Netto, the man overseeing the military intervention, sent mixed signals when, upon being named, he downplayed the violence in Rio by saying there were "a lot of media" covering each development.

"Rio is facing a grave state of violence, but we are not in a war," said Renata Neder from Amnesty International Brazil. She said characterizing the situation as a war, as many politicians have in recent months, adds to the idea that more police-related deaths will be justified.

UN experts: N. Korea sent banned chemical items to Syria

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—North Korea sent items used in ballistic missile and chemical weapons programs to Syria along with missile technicians in violation of U.N. sanctions - and banned ballistic missiles systems to Myanmar, U.N. experts said.

The panel of experts monitoring sanctions against North Korea said its investigations into Pyongyang's transfer of prohibited ballistic missile, conventional arms and dual use goods found more than 40 previously unreported shipments to Syria between 2012 and 2017.

It said an unnamed U.N. member state also reported evidence of Myanmar's receipt of a range of conventional weapons from North Korea including multiple rocket launchers and surface-to-air missiles in addition to ballistic missile systems.

The Associated Press reported on Feb. 2 that according to the experts' report, North Korea was flouting U.N. sanctions on oil and gas, engaging in prohibited ballistic missile cooperation with Syria and Myanmar, and illegally exporting commodities that brought in nearly $200 million in just nine months last year.

AP obtained details from the more than 200-page report late Tuesday, including the panel's findings related to chemical weapons in Syria. The U.S. and other Western nations have accused Syria of using chemical weapons against rebel-controlled areas including recently in the Damascus suburb of eastern Ghouta, which President Bashar Assad's government denies.

The report to the U.N. Security Council, which diplomats expect to be made public in mid-March, details "substantial new evidence" about North Korea's dealings with Syria, dating back to 2008.

According to an unidentified member state, the North's Ryonhap-2 Corporation was involved that year in a Syrian ballistic missile program, the "maneuverable re-entry vehicle (MARV) Scud D (MD) project," the report said.

More recently, it said the August 2016 visit by a technical delegation from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—the country's official name—"involved the transfer to Syria of special resistance valves and thermometers known for use in chemical weapons programs."

That information came from another member state which also reported that North Korean technicians "continue to operate at chemical weapons and missile facilities at Barzeh, Adra and Hama," the report said.

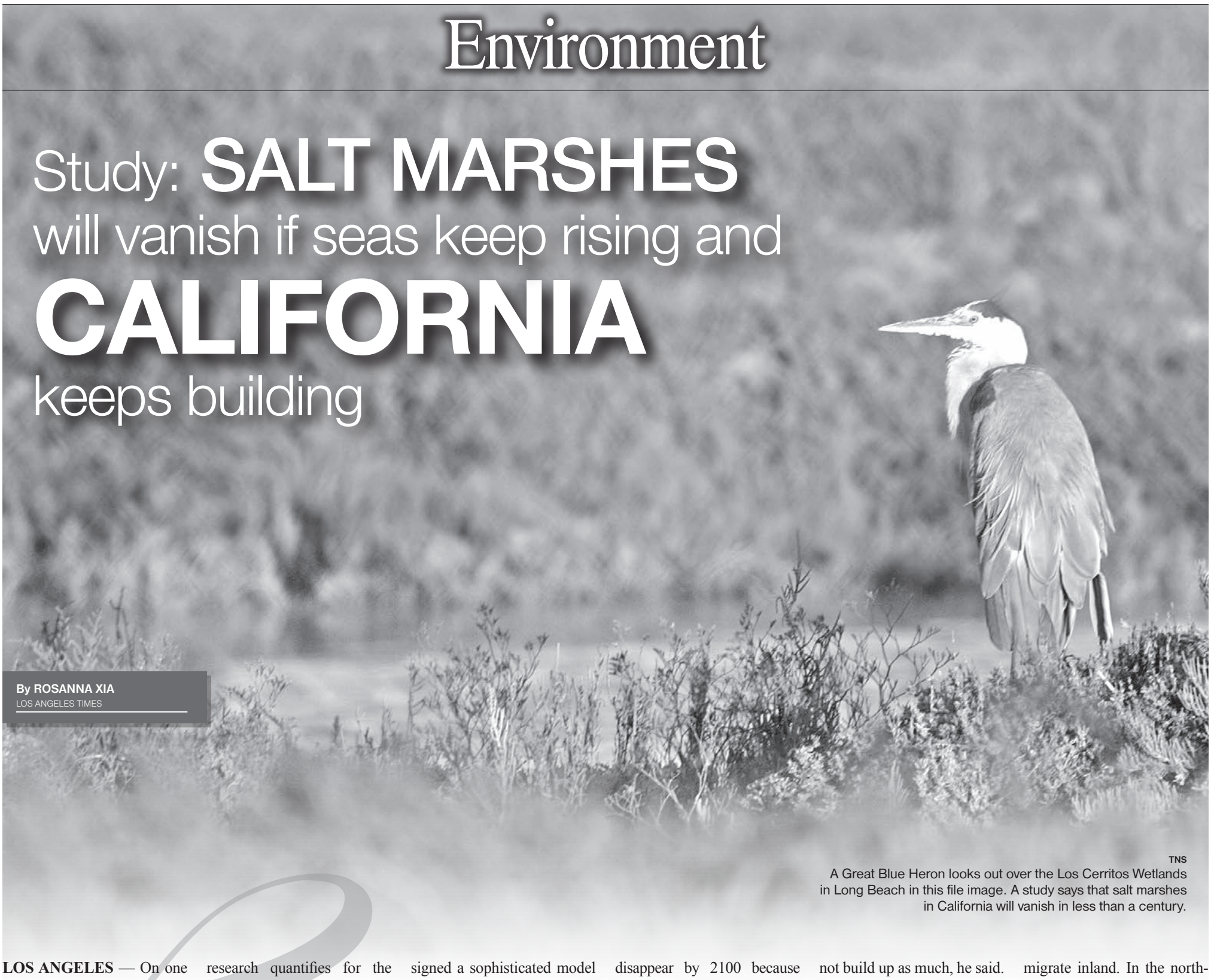
It quoted Syria's reply to the panel about the reports: "There are no DPRK technical companies in Syria and the only presence of some DPRK individuals are confined in the field of sports under private individual contracts for training athletics and gymnastics."

The experts added that they have not yet received a reply for documents supporting this claim and a list of all North Koreans who have traveled to Syria.

The panel said it also examined shipments interdicted by member states that were sent by the Chinese company Cheng Tong Trading Co. Ltd. to Damascus-based companies in 2016 and 2017.

Environment

Study: SALT MARSHES will vanish if seas keep rising and CALIFORNIA keeps building



By ROSANNA XIA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TNS
A Great Blue Heron looks out over the Los Cerritos Wetlands in Long Beach in this file image. A study says that salt marshes in California will vanish in less than a century.

LOS ANGELES — On one side, there's the rising ocean. On the other, rising buildings.

Squeezed between the two are California's salt marshes — a unique ecosystem filled with pickleweed and cordgrass, shorebirds and many endangered species.

Coastal wetlands such as Bolinas Lagoon in Marin County, the marshes along Morro Bay and the ecological preserve in Newport Beach can purify the air, cleanse urban runoff before it flows into the sea and reduce flooding by absorbing storm surges like a sponge.

But there's little room left for this ecosystem along the changing Pacific Coast, as the sea continues to rise and Californians continue to develop the shore. Southern California today has already lost three-quarters of its salt marshes.

The rest could be gone within 100 years. Salt marshes in California and Oregon could disappear entirely by 2110, according to a new study by a team of scientists led by the U.S. Geological Survey. Only a few might survive in Washington. The research quantifies for the first time the fate of this entire ecosystem on the West Coast, based on current projections of sea level rise.

"We're essentially drowning the marshes," said Glen MacDonald, a University of California, Los Angeles professor of geography and one of the authors of the study. "If we stay on the same carbon pathway that we are on now, and we take a look at conservative estimates of sea level rise, we would see California vegetated salt marshes we know today, Oregon vegetated salt marshes we know today, 100 percent gone by the first decade of the 22nd century."

The study, published Wednesday in Science Advances, examines 14 major estuaries along the West Coast, from the marshes of Port Susan Bay in northern Washington down to the Tijuana River Estuary.

Marsh by marsh, over the course of many years, scientists measured elevation, tidal flooding, the distribution of vegetation and rates of sedimentation. Using sea level projections by the National Research Council, they designed a sophisticated model to project how each marsh would fare. By even the most conservative measures, the damage was significant — especially in California.

Coastal marshes naturally adapt to sea level rise by migrating inland through a process called transgression. But by building the Pacific Coast Highway and developing up to the edge of basically every marsh, Californians have drawn a line in the sand.

"Think about Seal Beach, think about Carpinteria," MacDonald said. "You have expensive housing, you have commercial developments, you have our major coastal highways, the railroad, basically hemming in those marshes."

The building of dams, channelizing rivers and paving roads have also cut off the natural amount of sediment that flow through these marshes and into the ocean, which would add the vertical height these marshes need to fight sea level rise.

This coastal squeeze is also eroding beaches. A USGS study last spring projected that up to two-thirds of Southern California's beaches could disappear by 2100 because of similar pressures from sea level rise and human interruptions to sediment flow.

California's marshes are already at a disadvantage compared to the East Coast and Gulf Coast, researchers noted, because of the steep cliffs along much of the coastline.

"Naturally, even without the people, there's limited opportunities for the marshes to adjust by moving inland," said Richard Ambrose of UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, another author of the study. "But even in places like Newport or Morro Bay, where there might be places naturally for them to move, we've got the roads and we've got buildings. … Adding humans on top of our natural coastline gives these marshes really nowhere to go."

Beyond losing the hundreds of species that depend on this unique ecosystem, Ambrose said, the disappearance of these marshes would have a devastating impact on flood protection.

When there's this buffer of vegetation between land and sea, a storm surge cannot build up as much, he said. During Hurricane Katrina, for example, there was significant flooding in areas that once had marshes.

"Louisiana lost miles and miles and miles of wetland, and lost it for two main reasons: One is they channelized the Mississippi River," Ambrose said. "The other is all the oil and gas development — they dug a bunch of canals, which cut up the wetlands and made it easier for the wetlands to drown."

USGS research ecologist Karen Thorne, the study's lead author, said the new research provides a modeling tool and a more concrete time-frame for policymakers on what must be done to conserve these marshes.

One option, which Thorne and others are studying, involves adding thin layers of sediment to a salt marsh plain to increase its elevation. But this approach is expensive and must be repeated to keep pace with sea level rise.

Another option, albeit less popular, would be for officials to strategically acquire property along the coast and keep it open for marshes to migrate inland. In the northern San Francisco Bay, for example, farmers have been retiring their lands to Sonoma Land Trust and fish and wildlife agencies. In 2015, a levee at Sears Point Ranch was breached to allow salt water to fill a 1,000-acre tidal marsh basin for the first time in more than a century.

"Are there other places where we can say, 'Yeah, we have some development here, but the cost of protecting it is going to be so high, whereas saving the marsh is compensation for the loss of that developed landscape?'" MacDonald said.

MacDonald often thinks back to his first day of field research, in the Tijuana River Estuary, one of Southern California's last salt marshes. He marveled at the vast landscape, the undercurrent of life and the majestic shorebirds taking flight.

"You really absorb just the beauty of these marshes and their importance — and then to realize, we could be among the last generations in California to see these ecosystems," he said. "It's unbelievably sobering."

Life & Style

Woman tells police Steve Wynn raped her in '70s

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A woman told police she had a child with casino mogul Steve Wynn after he raped her, while another reported she was forced to resign from a Las Vegas job after she refused to have sex with him.

The Associated Press on Tuesday obtained copies of police reports recently filed by the two women about allegations dating to the 1970s. Police in Las Vegas revealed earlier this month that they had taken the statements after a news report in January revealed sexual misconduct allegations against the billionaire.

The allegations are the latest leveled against Wynn by women. He resigned as chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts on Feb. 6, less than two weeks after the Wall Street Journal reported that a number of women said he harassed or assaulted them and that one case led to a $7.5 million settlement.

Wynn has vehemently denied the misconduct accusations the newspaper reported and he attributed them to a campaign led by his ex-wife, whose attorney has denied that she instigated the Jan. 26 news story.

One police report obtained by the AP shows a woman told officers that Wynn raped her at least three times around 1973 and 1974 at her Chicago apartment. She reported she got pregnant and gave birth to a girl in a gas station restroom.

In one instance, the woman claimed that Wynn pinned her against the refrigerator and raped her. She said he then made a phone call, kissed her on the cheek and left. The report does not explain how Wynn is alleged to have entered the apartment or if they knew each other. The woman claimed she did not give him a key.

The second police report shows a woman told police she had consensual sex with Wynn "several times" while she worked as a dealer at the downtown Las Vegas casino-hotel Golden Nugget, but "felt coerced to perform the acts." She reported she was forced to resign when she turned him down.

"In the Summer of 1976, Wynn approached her in the back hall and wanted her to go with him," according to the report filed Jan. 29. "(S) he told him, "no", she was done and had someone she was seeing. She was soon after accused of stealing $40.00 and forced to resign."

The women's names are redacted on the reports, and police said they do not identify people who say they are victims of sex crimes.

The Las Vegas case will not be investigated because the statute of limitations in Nevada is 20 years.

Ralph Frammolino, spokesman for Wynn, on Tuesday declined comment on the latest allegations.

Wynn Resorts is facing scrutiny by gambling regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts, where the company is building a roughly $2.4 billion casino just outside Boston. Regulators in Macau, the Chinese enclave where the company operates two casinos, are also inquiring about the allegations.

Lewinsky calls Clinton affair a 'gross abuse of power'

NEW YORK (AP)—Monica Lewinsky says the affair that led to impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton "was not sexual assault" but "constituted a gross abuse of power."

Lewinsky writes in the March issue of "Vanity Fair" that she is "in awe of the sheer courage" of women who've been confronting "entrenched beliefs and institutions."

The former White House intern says she was recently moved to tears when a leader of the #MeToo movement told her, "I'm so sorry you were so alone."

Lewinsky says she's been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress from being "publicly outed and ostracized," and lauds the "#MeToo" movement for providing "the safety that comes from solidarity."

"There are many more women and men whose voices and stories need to be heard before mine. (There are even some people who feel my White House experiences don't have a place in this movement, as what transpired between Bill Clinton and myself was not sexual assault, although we now recognize that it constituted a gross abuse of power,)" Lewinsky wrote.

Clinton initially denied the affair before admitting to it in 1998; the Democrat was acquitted by the Senate.

Clinton's representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Tuesday.

"Now, at 44, I'm beginning (just beginning) to consider the implications of the power differentials that were so vast between a president and a White House intern," Lewinsky said.

"I'm beginning to entertain the notion that in such a circumstance the idea of consent might well be rendered moot. (Although power imbalances—and the ability to abuse them—do exist even when the sex has been consensual,)" she wrote.

After Brando, the deluge of Oscar politics

NEW YORK (AP)—Should any of this year's Oscars winners use the occasion to promote a political cause, you can thank—or blame—Marlon Brando.

Brando's role as Vito Corleone in "The Godfather" remains a signature performance in movie history. But his response to winning an Academy Award was truly groundbreaking. Upending a decades-long tradition of tears, nervous humor, thank-yous and general good will, he sent actress Sacheen Littlefeather in his place to the 1973 ceremony to protest Hollywood's treatment of American Indians. In the years since, winners have brought up everything from climate change (Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Revenant," 2016) to abortion (John Irving, screenplay winner in 2000) to equal pay for women, Patricia Arquette, best supporting actress winner in 2015 for "Boyhood."

"Speeches for a long time were relatively quiet in part because of the control of the studio system," says James Piazza, who with Gail Kinn wrote "The Academy Awards: The Complete History of Oscar," published in 2002. "There had been some controversy, like when George C. Scott refused his Oscar for 'Patton' (which came out in 1970). But Brando's speech really broke the mold."

Producers for this year's Oscars show have said they want to emphasize the movies themselves, but between the #MeToo movement and Hollywood's general disdain for President Donald Trump, political or social statements appear likely at the March 4 ceremony. Winners at January's Golden Globes citing the treatment of women included Laura Dern and Reese Witherspoon, who thanked "everyone who broke their silence this year." Honorary Globe winner Oprah Winfrey, in a speech that had some encouraging her to run for president, noted that "women have not been heard or believed if they dare speak the truth to the power of those men. But their time is up. Their time is up. Their time is up."

Before Brando, winners avoided making news even if the time was right and the audience never bigger. Gregory Peck, who won for best actor in 1963 as Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mockingbird," said nothing about the film's racial theme even though he frequently spoke about it in interviews. When Sidney Poitier became the first black to win best actor, for "Lilies of the Field" in 1964, he spoke of the "long journey" that brought him to the stage, but otherwise made no comment on his milestone. When Jane Fonda, the most politicized of actresses, won for "Klute" in 1972, her speech was brief and uneventful.

"There's a great deal to say, but I'm not going to say it tonight," she stated. "I would just like to thank you very much."

Dean's iconic 'Rebel Without a Cause' jacket up for auction

In this, Monday, Feb. 12, 2018, photo, Rico Baca, auctioneer and co-owner of Palm Beach Modern Auctions, points out features on a jacket worn by actor James Dean in the film "Rebel Without a Cause," at PBMA in West Palm Beach, Fla. The jacket, privately owned since Dean wore it in the 1955 film, will be publicly auctioned in Florida on March 3. AP

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — James Dean's cherry-red jacket from "Rebel Without a Cause" is expected to bring up to $600,000 when it goes up for auction this week in Florida, offering fans a rare chance to own something linked to the actor who died at 24.

The bomber-style jacket still looks cool at Palm Beach Modern Auctions, where it was displayed recently on a mannequin dressed in a white T-shirt and blue jeans, similar to Dean's signature style in the movie.

The nylon windbreaker is worth an estimated $400,000 to $600,000, auction house co-owner Rico Baca said.

That sounds pricey, but Baca said the jacket is as important to pop culture as a dress worn by actress Marilyn Monroe, one of Elvis Presley's rhinestone jumpsuits or gloves worn on stage by singer Michael Jackson.

"It just represents a really significant period of our culture in the 1950s," Baca said.

Dean died in a car crash in September 1955, about a month before the premiere of the film that cemented his status as an icon of teen defiance. Because he died so young and starred in only three movies, collectibles tied to him are scarce, Baca said.

The dress Monroe wore to sing "Happy Birthday" to President John F. Kennedy sold at auction for $4.8 million in 2016. One of Jackson's white gloves was auctioned for nearly half a million dollars in 2009, and one of Presley's rhinestone suits sold for $250,000 last year.

"There's a great deal of interest in these types of items, and I expect to have the same sort of interest in this jacket" at the Saturday auction, Baca said.

PRIVATE COLLECTION

Michael Scott of Hobe Sound has had the jacket since the 1980s. A friend whose uncle got the windbreaker from men's wardrobe supervisor Leon Roberts at the end of filming left it to Scott in his will. The actor had been a hero to Scott and his friends, who were in high school when the film premiered.

"We were called greasers," Scott said. "We were going through some of the same kind of torment that he was living in the script."

The garment has a Bud Berma tag sewn into its lining, a cigarette burn on the left sleeve and stitching to take in its elasticized waist to fit the trim Dean.

"I think it's in good condition, considering the age of the jacket," Baca said.

AUTHENTICITY

The jacket seen in the film was bought off the rack, but it's unclear how many were on set, Baca said.

Scott's documentation includes a 1962 letter from Roberts asking his friend's uncle to donate "the red jacket worn by the late actor James Dean in Rebel Without A Cause" to the Hollywood Museum.

"You have a letter from him asking for the jacket back. I don't know how it can be construed any other way than this is the jacket that came from the set," Baca said.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

First lady cuts ties with adviser paid $26M for inaugural

WASHINGTON (AP) — Melania Trump has cut ties with an adviser whose firm was paid $26 million to help plan the president's inauguration. Mrs. Trump's spokeswoman, Stephanie Grisham, confirms Tuesday that the first lady's office has "severed the gratuitous services contract" it had with Stephanie Winston Wolkoff. Winston Wolkoff is a New York-based event planner and longtime friend of the first lady. She'd been working as an unpaid White House adviser to Mrs. Trump. The New York Times first reported on the termination of Winston Wolkoff's White House contract. The first lady's spokeswoman has said Mrs. Trump had no role with the inaugural committee and didn't know how the money was being spent. Recent tax filings show that the inaugural committee paid two private companies more than $50 million for event planning.

Sandra Bullock, Dave Chappelle, Rita Moreno join Oscar show

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sandra Bullock, Dave Chappelle, Christopher Walken, Rita Moreno and Helen Mirren are among the latest slate of stars set to appear on the 90th Academy Awards. Oscar telecast producers revealed another round of celebrity presenters on Tuesday, which also includes Jane Fonda, Matthew McConaughey, Lupita Nyong'o, Nicole Kidman, Jodie Foster, Ashley Judd and Eugenio Derbez. Chadwick Boseman, Mark Hamill, Gal Gadot, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Gina Rodriguez and Zendaya were previously announced as presenters. Producers also said last week that all five Oscar-nominated songs will be performed live on the show by their original singers, including Mary J. Blige, Natalia Lafourcade, Andra Day and Common. Jimmy Kimmel will host the show Sunday from Hollywood's Dolby Theatre.

Dubai closes case on Indian actress, calls death an accident

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Dubai investigators on Tuesday closed the case into the death last weekend of Indian movie icon Sridevi, calling it an accidental drowning. The 54-year-old Sridevi, who was known by only one name, drowned in a hotel bathtub after losing consciousness, officials said. Police officials have said the autopsy also revealed alcohol in her system. "The case has now been closed," the state-run Dubai Media office tweeted. Her family brought the actress' body to Mumbai in a private plane owned by Anil Ambani, a wealthy Mumbai-based industrialist, on Tuesday night. Several Bollywood personalities and a large number of her fans were at the airport to pay homage to Sridevi. Her cremation is scheduled for Wednesday, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. Her husband, Boney Kapoor, is a well-known Bollywood film producer. Sridevi's death has been front-page news in India, where Bollywood stars command an almost mythical status. Fans have been gathering in front of the Mumbai home of her brother-in-law, prominent actor Anil Kapoor. The coverage has been both lurid and restrained, with one TV station showing a reporter talking about her death from inside a bathtub, and many newspapers not mentioning the alcohol reports.

Prime time Olympics coverage drops 7 percent from Sochi

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC finished the Pyeongchang Olympics by averaging just under 20 million viewers with its prime-time coverage on the network, NBCSN cable and live streaming, which was a 7 percent decline from the Winter Olympics of 2014. The Nielsen company said that the NBC-only average in prime time was 17.8 million, or a 17 percent decline from Sochi. In 2014, NBC only offered prime-time coverage on the network, and did not have simultaneous programming on cable and online. NBC said the viewership helped make the Olympics profitable. Viewership started out stronger than executives expected at the beginning of the Olympics and faded toward the end. In this Oct. 17, 2017 file photo, a neon Michael Jordan "Jumpman" sign is reflected in a mirror along with merchandise for sale at the Charlotte Hornets' NBA basketball fan store in Charlotte, N.C. A federal appeals court says an iconic Nike logo of a leaping Michael Jordan did not violate the copyright of an earlier photograph of the basketball star. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018, that the logo was based on a photograph of Jordan by Nike that was inspired by a 1984 photo by Jacobus Rentmeester.

Kevin Spacey Foundation in UK 'no longer viable', shuts down

LONDON (AP) — The Kevin Spacey Foundation U.K. has decided to shut down because of the multiple allegations of sexual harassment against the Academy Award winning actor.

The foundation said on its website Tuesday that its trustees have concluded the work of the foundation "is no longer viable."

The foundation helped identify young artists and provide them with training and resources as they developed careers.

Spacey has strong connections to Britain, where he served as artistic director of the Old Vic theater for 11 years. The theater said in November that it had received 20 allegations of inappropriate behavior by Spacey.

Police in London said in January they were investigated three allegations of sexual assault against the former "House of Cards" star.

The foundation says it will cease operations Wednesday.

NO COPYRIGHT VIOLATION AP

In this Oct. 17, 2017 file photo, a neon Michael Jordan "Jumpman" sign is reflected in a mirror along with merchandise for sale at the Charlotte Hornets' NBA basketball fan store in Charlotte, N.C. A federal appeals court says an iconic Nike logo of a leaping Michael Jordan did not violate the copyright of an earlier photograph of the basketball star. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018, that the logo was based on a photograph of Jordan by Nike that was inspired by a 1984 photo by Jacobus Rentmeester.

Wife can't watch as 'friend' abuses husband's generosity

DEAR ABBY: My husband loaned a "dear friend" some money a year ago. She has yet to pay back a penny. When I ask him about it, he gets mad and tells me it's none of my business. I have hinted to her about some large bills that we have to pay, to no avail.

Other than that, my husband and I have a great marriage and love each other very much. I just don't like her taking advantage of his generosity. I know taking care of his friends gives him pleasure, but he has been burned before and I can see it happening again. I find it hard to ignore. What do I do?

SICK OF IT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR SICK OF IT: I wish you had mentioned whether you work and the money your soft-touch hubby gave his friend was partly earned by you. If that's the case, I don't blame you for being upset.

While I'm not sure you can prevent your husband from doing this, I do think you are within your rights to insist that before he does it he discuss it with you. If he will do that, perhaps the two of you can find an alternative for the person other than giving out money.

DEAR ABBY: My son passed away unexpectedly a little over eight years ago. He was 21. At the time, he had been dating a very nice young lady. We kept in touch for a while after the funeral -- letters and emails mostly, as I had moved out of state—but things gradually tapered off.

I have been able to keep somewhat informed about her life because of the magic of social media and mutual friends she shared with my son who still contact me occasionally. I recently learned she's being married within the next two weeks. I am wondering if it would be wrong or weird of me to send a congratulatory card to the happy couple. I wish only continued happiness for her and her future husband.

WISHING HAPPINESS

DEAR WISHING: I see nothing wrong or weird about sending her a nice card, and when you do, be sure to tell her not only that you wish her a happy future, but also that she will always have a special place in your heart.

DEAR ABBY: Would it be appropriate for someone to tell someone else's children to stop doing something dangerous if the parent is not around? I'm talking about kids holding scissors the wrong way or running with them, pushing others, etc.

My children are in their teens now and know that such behavior is wrong. If it were the other way around, I would be grateful if someone cared enough to tell my kids that a behavior is wrong and/or dangerous.

GLAD IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR GLAD: How else would the children know if they weren't warned? To speak up would be an act of kindness, particularly if they were doing something that could cause harm to themselves or others.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

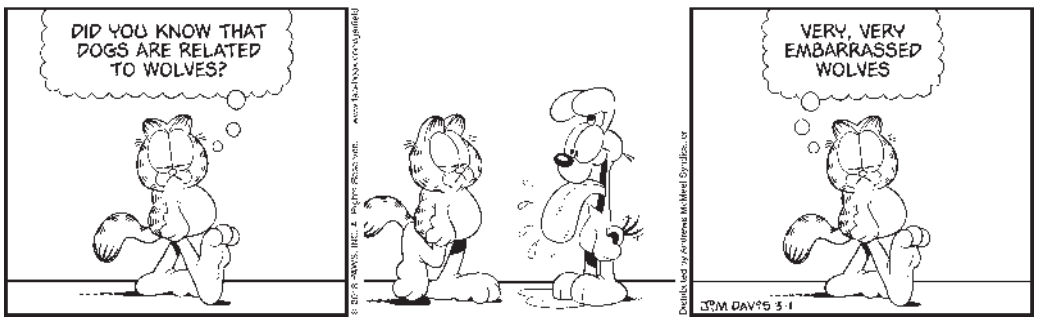
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Hey, Calvin, guess what we're doing in gym today. We're wrestling!
Next period you'll be so covered with mat burns you'll need skin grafts! Ha ha ha! See ya then, twinky.
SIGHHHH...
PHYSICAL EDUCATION IS WHAT YOU LEARN FROM HAVING YOUR FACE IN SOMEONE'S ARMPIT RIGHT BEFORE LUNCH.

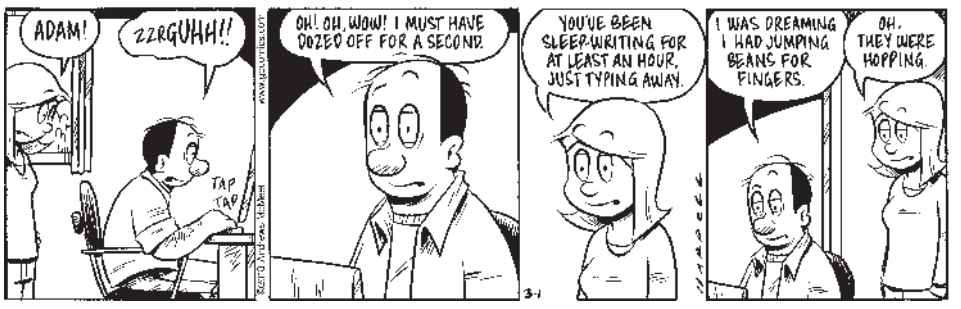
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



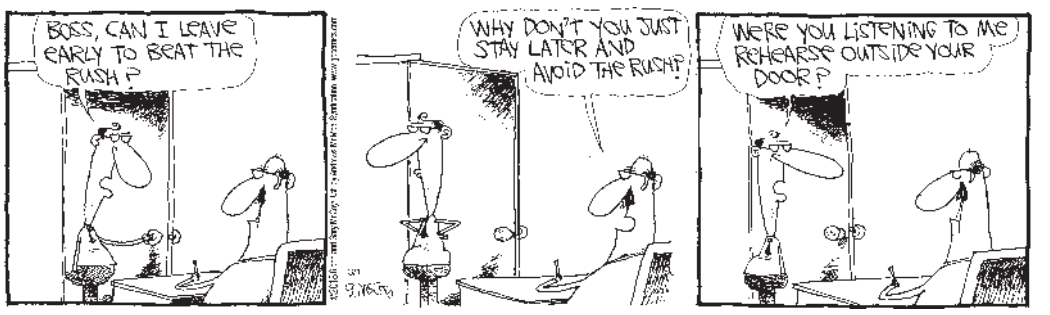
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM!
ZZRGUHH!!
TAP TAP
OH! OH, WOW! I MUST HAVE DOZED OFF FOR A SECOND.
YOU'VE BEEN SLEEP-WRITING FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR, JUST TYPING AWAY.
I WAS DREAMING I HAD JUMPING BEANS FOR FINGERS.
OH, THEY WERE HOPPING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


BOSS, CAN I LEAVE EARLY TO BEAT THE RUSH?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST STAY LATER AND AVOID THE RUSH?
WERE YOU LISTENING TO ME REHEARSE OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

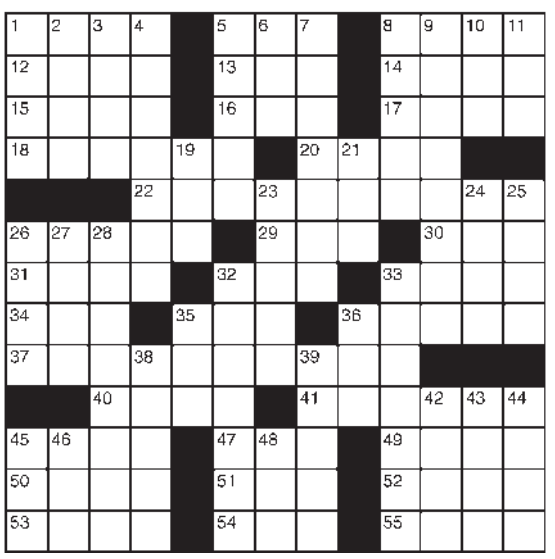
1 Long tale
5 School support org.
8 Forehead
12 Earth Day subj.
13 Hit hard
14 Make over
15 Enfold
16 Chemical suffix
17 It takes the cake
18 Family cars
20 Small iPod
22 Stand-up venue
26 To date
29 Toe count
30 Airport screening org.
31 Belonging to us
32 Third degree?
33 "It's — real!"
34 Submachine gun
35 — chi
36 San Diego player
37 "Service Above Self" group
40 Chicago paper, briefly
41 Congenital
45 Wander
47 Request
49 Stow cargo
50 Saxophone range
51 Prompt
52 Work units
53 Put on
54 Understanding
55 Hunt for

DOWN

1 Stitches
2 Farm unit
3 Incite
4 Llamas' kin
5 Spectrum creator
6 Wee bit
7 Revised
8 Bucking horse
9 Staged a mutiny
10 Praise in verse
11 Triumphed
19 Neither mate
21 Objectivist Rand
23 Moral principle
24 — -friendly
25 Curse
26 Tart
27 Greek liqueur
28 Italian omelet
32 Retribution
33 Talks nonsense
35 Part of TNT
36 Bit of wit
38 Knight wear
39 Compare
42 Exceptional
43 Rim
44 Cubicle fixture
45 Cold and damp
46 Flamenco cheer
48 Take to court

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Bieber, 24; Kesha, 31; Lupita Nyong'o, 35; Ron Howard, 64.

Happy Birthday: Share your thoughts and feelings and listen to what others have to say. Getting along will be half the battle this year. Your willingness to help others and to be forthcoming about what you need or want in return will help to ease stress and give you the platform you need to bring about change and peace of mind. Your numbers are 6, 14, 17, 21, 29, 36, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Secrets are best kept that way. Focus on personal changes that will make you feel good about the way you look, what you know and the direction you are heading. Don't share personal information or passwords. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Settle into something that interests you. Do your research and find out what's needed to put your plans in motion. Someone you least expect will help you make a decision that can change your direction and improve your life. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Partnerships will undergo distractions, uncertainty and a lack of trust if you don't keep your communication open and honest. Discuss the matters that have the potential to upset your life. Do your best to keep the peace. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Test the waters and say what's on your mind. Not everyone will agree with you, but you will find out quickly where you stand and whom you can trust. Congregate with like-minded individuals and you will accomplish a lot. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A solid strategy will make a difference. Don't go into a meeting or an exam without having a well-thought-out plan in place. Your future is dependent on how well you do when faced with a challenge. Precision and detail are encouraged. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Emotions will flare up if you aren't honest about the way you feel. Stay calm and make your points clearly and you will be able to overcome any misunderstanding or differences of opinion you have with someone you love. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Work quietly toward your goal. Keep your thoughts and intentions a secret until you have reached a point where you feel you have done enough research to persuade others to support your projects. A domestic change is encouraged. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Concentrate on what matters most to you. Extend a helping hand to someone you care about or a cause you believe in. Your input will be welcome and lead to all sorts of interesting new beginnings. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Do your research before getting involved in something that someone else is trying to push on you. Change can be good, but it has to be for the right reasons and involve someone who has as much to offer as you do. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Consider drawing up a contract or at least laying out your plans and discussing the best way to reach an agreement. If you show the willingness to make adjustments, you will find it easier to come up with a workable arrangement. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Look inward and decipher what you can do to improve your life, your outlook and the relationships you have with those you care about most. Positive change will encourage praise and keep you from getting involved in indulgent behavior. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Questioning your relationships with different people will help you get a better sense of who is good for you to hang out with and who isn't. Take steps to get rid of emotional baggage and physical possessions that are weighing you down. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, aggressive and unusual. You are proactive and specific.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9		7		
4							3
	3		1		6		7
2		6			3		9
9		1			8		5
	2		6		9		4
5							1
			8		3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	3	1	6	9	7	8	2	5
8	5	7	2	3	1	6	9	4
6	9	2	4	5	8	7	1	3
2	7	9	1	4	5	3	6	8
5	6	8	9	2	3	4	7	1
1	4	3	8	7	6	2	5	9
7	8	5	3	1	2	9	4	6
9	2	6	5	8	4	1	3	7
3	1	4	7	6	9	5	8	2

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FORENSIC EVIDENCE Solution: 6 letters

F	P	W	S	T	N	E	M	U	C	O	D	T	S
I	O	R	I	G	D	N	E	F	F	O	R	R	E
N	N	O	E	T	C	E	J	B	O	A	E	L	N
G	C	V	T	S	N	B	A	L	C	P	P	I	U
E	O	E	E	P	E	E	B	E	X	M	M	S	O
R	N	A	L	S	R	R	S	E	A	A	P	L	U
P	V	N	E	L	T	I	V	S	X	E	I	A	S
R	I	A	G	S	S	I	N	E	C	C	T	W	T
I	C	L	A	W	T	R	G	T	E	I	C	S	L
N	T	Y	L	A	E	A	S	A	S	E	E	L	U
T	I	Z	G	T	T	A	B	E	T	O	L	Y	S
S	O	E	T	E	S	T	P	L	S	I	L	O	E
K	N	A	N	I	A	T	B	O	I	A	O	V	R
I	P	H	Y	S	I	C	A	L	N	S	C	N	E
N	V	I	D	E	O	T	A	P	E	S	H	A	I

© 2012 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 3/1

Analyze, Blood, Cases, Cells, Collect, Conviction, Documents, Establish, Examine, Expert, Fingerprints, Footprints, Hair, Investigation, Lab, Laws, Legal, Negative, Object, Obtain, Offend, Patterns, Physical, Police, Preserve, Prosecution, Results, Role, Samples, Skin, Solve, Suspect, Test, Traces, Videotapes, Weapons, Witness

Yesterday's Answer: St. George's

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Maintenance Repairer-$7.05/hr. with 2-years exp. Email JJ Brother Corp. at jjbrothercorp@gmail.com.

www.saipantribune.com

American DongSheng Corporation
(6) Sales Associate
(1) Manager
(1) Commercial Cleaner/Stocker
(1) Driver/Deliver/Cleaner
(2) Warehouse clerk
7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.
Existing work experience is a plus.
Chinese language skill is a plus.
US citizen and Green card preferred.
Contact 488-1868
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

S. FLOWER CORPORATION
Dba OH MY HOUSE
Is looking to hire
(2) Commercial Cleaner
(2) Maintenance & Repair Worker
For more information please call 483-4693 or 288-6108

THANKS SAIPAN CORPORATION
(1) OPERATION MANAGER
- Must Have 4 years experience in Managerial Position.
- Can speak English, Korean and Chinese

Contact Person: **Jane Kim**
Contact Number :**783-0085**

American Create Beauty Corporation
(5) Sales Associates
(1) Cleaner
7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.
Existing work experience is a plus.
Chinese language skill is a plus.
US citizen and Green card preferred.
Contact 488-1868
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

American Pretty Car Rental
(1) Manager
(2) Commercial Cleaner
7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.
Existing work experience is a plus.
Chinese language skill is a plus.
US citizen and Green card preferred.
Contact 488-1868
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Operations Manager
- 3-5 years experience; hardworking; must be able to supervise or manage other orders and tracking from other countries; pick up mails from main post office safely. Must have valid driver's license.

Accountant
- Must be college degree with at least 5 years experience in General Accounting. Must be knowledgeable in the preparation of Financial Statements. 5-7 years experience in Peachtree Accounting Systems. Able to work in flexible hours.

Email resume to:
Irmaramba0621@gmail.com
Mail Express Inc.
PMB 719 Box 10005, Saipan, MP 96950

American Create Beauty Corporation
(2) Western food cook
(3) Serving staff
(1) BBQ cook
(1) Maintenance/cleaner
(1) Manager
7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.
Existing work experience is a plus.
Chinese language skill is a plus.
US citizen and Green card preferred.
Contact 488-1868
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

American Pretty Tour Corporation
(6) Tour Guide
(1) Manager
7.05-10.05/hour depends on experience.
Existing work experience is a plus.
Chinese language skill is a plus.
US citizen and Green card preferred.
Contact 488-1868
Submit resume via mail: ahesaipan@gmail.com

LOOKING TO HIRE
Electricians and Helpers
Electricians starting from $12-18/hr and Helpers for $9/hr.
Bring resume to
Marianas Business Plaza
(3rd floor – 309)
For more information, contact Alan at
285-5499 or 234-4800

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

AGNES S.N. MAHATO PETITIONER) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0020
VS.)
CHANDRA MANI MAHATO) SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
Respondent,)

TO THE ABOVE RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 503346 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2018.

/s/ Clerk of Court

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!

For opportunities contact us at
235-6397

WHATZIT Solution: Great oaks from tiny acorns grow

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Dolphins willing to trade Landry despite franchise tag

MIAMI (AP)—The franchise tag doesn't necessarily mean Jarvis Landry will be staying with the Dolphins in 2018.

The Dolphins are willing to trade the wide receiver if the right situation popped up, according to the Miami Herald.

Miami placed a $16.2 million tag on Landry last week, but with the NFL Scouting Combine coming up, the Dolphins are still open to a viable option that could take Landry's place. The team would even eat some of Landry's contract.

Landry's side was originally trying to negotiate a four-year, $58 million deal, but it's unclear if those terms have changed.

The original stipulations for a trade would be two first-round draft picks, according to the report, but the Dolphins are now willing to take less, such as a low second or high third-round pick.

The threat of a trade could move Landry to sign the tag, or it could prompt him to negotiate harder and keep him away from the team as camps start, much like the Le'Veon Bell-Steelers situation last season.

AP

Miami Dolphins wide receiver Jarvis Landry, right, pushes off New England Patriots Jonathan Jones during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 3, 2016, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Landry has been a productive piece for the Dolphins over the last four years, tabbing 22 touchdowns and 400 caught passes for 4,038 yards in his four seasons with the league.

In Detroit, the Lions have designated defensive end Ziggy Ansah as their franchise player.

The Lions announced the decision Tuesday. Ansah, a first-round draft pick in 2013, has 44 sacks in five years with Detroit, including 12 this past season.

Ansah hasn't played a full 16 games since the 2015 season, but while his health has been an issue, he can still be an elite pass rusher. He had three sacks in a game three times last season, against the Giants, Bengals and Packers.

The franchise tag buys the Lions and Ansah until mid-July to reach agreement on a long-term contract. Otherwise, he'll play on a one-year deal and make the average of the top five players at his position in 2018.

In San Francisco, the 49ers have signed offensive lineman Garry Gilliam to a two-year contract extension.

The deal reached Tuesday keeps Gilliam off the free-agent market next month and under contract through 2019.

Gilliam joined San Francisco last offseason as a free agent and played in the first eight games with one start before being placed on injured reserve with a knee injury.

Gilliam's return gives the 49ers needed depth in the offseason as starting right tackle Trent Brown recovers from shoulder surgery.

Gilliam has played 52 games with 31 starts in four seasons with San Francisco and Seattle.

In Chicago, the Bears hired former Minnesota Vikings coach Brad Childress as an offensive consultant and finalized new coach Matt Nagy's staff.

Childress coached the Vikings from 2006-10 and worked alongside Nagy as a member of Andy Reid's staff in Kansas City from 2013-17. Childress announced his retirement after the season. But the lure of working with Nagy apparently was strong.

The Bears said Tuesday that Dave Ragone will return as quarterbacks coach, Charles London will coach running backs and Mike Furrey will coach receivers. The defensive staff returns intact, with Bill Shuey joining as a quality control coach.

The Bears also hired Jason Loscalzo as strength and conditioning coach and Andre Tucker as a trainer.

Chicago announced last month that Vic Fangio would return for a fourth season as defensive coordinator. The Bears also hired former Oregon coach Mark Helfrich as offensive coordinator, Chris Tabor as special teams coach, Harry Hiestand as offensive line coach and Kevin Gilbride as tight ends coach.

Chicago fired former coach John Fox after going 5-11 and finishing last in the NFC North for the fourth straight year.

Beckham's MLS stadium in Miami hits another snag

MIAMI (AP)—David Beckham's Major League Soccer franchise in Miami was officially announced last month in a glitzy ceremony in MIA, but there are still a few loose ends to tie up on the stadium deal in Overtown.

The search for land for a 25,000 capacity stadium almost ended Beckham's dream to own an MLS franchise, along with other investors, but land in Overtown (less than 2 miles from downtown Miami) has now been purchased and everything looked to be moving ahead smoothly ahead of a 2020 entry in MLS.

Think again.

A report from the Miami Herald states that an appeal has been filed against Beckham and the land his ownership group purchased from Miami-Dade County.

More from the Herald, as wealthy activist Bruce Matheson has appealed the decision to endorse the deal for three acres of county owned land Beckham's group bought for $9 million as he offered to pay more for the same parcel of land.

In granting David Beckham and partners a no-bid deal to pay $9 million for three acres of government land for a soccer stadium, Miami-Dade County gave the venture "a secret discount from the taxpayers" by avoiding the chance for better offers, lawyers fighting the proposed Overtown complex said in court papers filed late Monday.

In 2017, Miami-Dade commissioners agreed to sell the Beckham partnership the three-acre county truck depot for $9 million without seeking other offers, citing the state's economic-development law to justify the no-bid arrangement. A judge endorsed the deal in an October ruling, but Matheson appealed.

The county requires developers in exclusive negotiations to pay market rate for government property and to agree to a package of hiring requirements and other benefits to local businesses and residents. The Beckham group agreed to create 50 permanent jobs at its stadium in exchange for the no-bid purchase.

Here we go again.

Beckham's bid hasn't gone smoothly since the former Manchester United, Real Madrid and LA Galaxy midfielder announced his intentions to host his cut-price MLS expansion side—as part of his playing contract with LA back in 2007 he was allowed to purchase an MLS franchise for $25 million upon retirement from the game. The current expansion fee is over $150 million—in Miami in 2014.

Several stadium sites have come and gone since then and at the event last month to unveil the franchise, Bolivian billionaire Marcelo Claure revealed he and Beckham were ready to throw in the towel after years of searching unsuccessfully for a stadium site in Miami.

Then local construction magnates Jorge and Jose Mas stepped in to join the ownership group and help finalize the bid last November, with the expansion franchise officially awarded earlier this month.

How serious is this? It seems to be no more than a slight speed bump which could delay the final deal as Beckham's group have until June to close on the county land.

Beckham has stuck to his plans to house an MLS franchise in Miami up until now and is unlikely this legal appeal will see him pull out with a senior adviser to Miami Mayor Carlos Gimenez quoted by the Herald as saying the deal was a "transparent process based on solid legal grounds."

That said, Matheson previously fought plans to expand the Miami Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne and won, with the tournament since moving to Miami Gardens, so Beckham and Co. will be wary.

Giants' Pence learns to play new position

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Hunter Pence takes an odd swing, and his throwing motion is unusual. He's quite quirky and embraces that person—a player totally out of left field, really.

This year, for once, he'll actually be in left field.

Even though he's never started at that spot during 11 seasons in the majors, the San Francisco Giants are asking him to learn a new position. Pence is their new left fielder after nearly 10 years of his career exclusively in right.

Pence is gladly making the move to accommodate newly arrived Andrew McCutchen, who will take over as the regular right fielder. Center field might be a platoon with Austin Jackson, Gregor Blanco and Gorkys Hernandez part of the mix in spring training.

Some players might resist such a sudden shift to some degree. Pence has standing in the big leagues and in the Bay Area—he's a three-time All-Star, and has won World Series rings during six seasons with the Giants.

But Pence can hardly keep from smiling when asked about the switch.

"It's fun. It's kind of like a fresh new perspective," Pence said. "It feels like a whole new game, almost. It's really a pleasure to be out there and to see the field from that angle."

Pence made his 2018 spring training debut in left on Sunday and was put to work chasing several Chicago Cubs' hits. He didn't look uncomfortable nor unsure in his new position, and was set to play left again on Tuesday before being scratched due to illness.

No longer will he be playing in front of the high wall in right field at AT&T Park.

"Just going to take advantage of the preparation that we have here. It's pretty good to have all these games to work on it," Pence said.

The transition seems to be going well in workouts. The Giants hit balls in different spots into the high sun in Arizona so Pence can get a sense of how it will be on bright day games in San Francisco.

"If you watch him shag during (batting practice), he's got no problems with breaks," bench coach Hensley Meulens said. "You don't see him go the wrong way. He's a pretty naturally instinctive outfielder. I don't suspect that the change is going to be a problem for him."

Hernandez was in center field on Sunday. He and Pence came close to a collision in left-center field on a sinking liner caught by Hernandez.

Wade scores 27, Heat rally to beat 76ers

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade scored a season-high 27 points, the last of those coming on a jumper that gave Miami its only lead of the fourth quarter with 5.9 seconds left, and the Heat rallied to beat the Philadelphia 76ers 102-101 on Tuesday night.

Wade had 15 of his points in the fourth quarter, and the Heat won a game where they never led by more than three.

Goran Dragic scored 21 for the Heat, who got 16 points from Tyler Johnson and 15 points and 11 rebounds from Hassan Whiteside.

Joel Embiid scored 23 points for Philadelphia, which got 21 from Dario Saric. The 76ers led by as many as 10 in the fourth and had a chance to win at the buzzer, but JJ Redick's wide-open 3-point try bounced off the rim.

Redick finished with 15 for the 76ers.

Wade was absolutely vintage down the stretch, and Miami needed him to be just that.

Redick got fouled shooting a 3 with 1:47 left, made all three free throws and put Philadelphia up 98-95. With 27 seconds left, Wade got fouled on a busted Miami play while trying a 3 from the left corner—making all three to tie the game at 100.

Then Miami rolled the dice—twice.

The first came when Wade intentionally fouled Simmons almost immediately after the ensuing inbounds pass. Simmons missed the first and made the second, and the Heat were down one with 23.8 seconds left.

The second was not calling timeout to set up the next play. Wade kept the ball for the entirety of the next possession, connecting on a 21-footer that ultimately was the deciding shot.

AP

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) takes a shot against Philadelphia 76ers guard Ben Simmons (25) with 5.9 seconds left during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018, in Miami.

LeBron flattered by Philly fans' free-agency fawning

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—LeBron James has Philadelphia's basketball pulse racing.

The NBA superstar still hasn't seen three billboards urging him to join the 76ers, but he's flattered by the idea that a city would want him to play there.

"That's dope," he said.

The three billboards were unveiled on Monday on busy Interstate-480 outside Cleveland, and each contains a message asking James to sign with the Sixers this summer as a free agent.

The signs, which were paid for by a Chester, Pennsylvania, company were inspired by the Oscar-nominated film, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri." But their objective was to entice James to come to Philadelphia.

Although James may not see the signs because they're not on any route he would take from his home in Bath, Ohio, to Quicken Loans Arena, the three-time champion was warmed by their sentiment.

"It is actually very flattering that I'm sitting here at 33 and in my 15th year and teams or guys—I don't want to say teams because that becomes tampering—but people in their respective city want me to play for them," he said. "That's cool I think."

James' appreciation caused a commotion on social media as Sixers fans began dreaming of No. 23 in one of the team's jerseys. NBA tampering rules prohibit teams from having any involvement in recruiting players, but there's nothing to stop fans from making their pitch.

"We're passionate about Philadelphia," Asher Raphael, co-CEO of by Power Home Remodeling, the company that paid for the billboards told ESPN. "We have an amazing city. It's the best sports town and it's an awesome place to live. We think the best athletes should want to play here."

The Sixers will visit the Cavaliers on Thursday night.

James can opt out of his contract with Cleveland following this season and the superstar can hit the free-agency market.

The first billboard includes a "(hash)23" in maroon with a crown, on a court with four numbers—the jerseys for Sixers Ben Simmons, Joel Embiid, Dario Saric and Robert Covington. The second billboard has the motto: "Complete The Process," a takeoff on the Sixers' "Trust The Process" mantra and the third says: "(hash)PhillyWantsLeBron."

James' free agency figures to be the NBA's biggest offseason story, and the four-time champion recently shot down any discussion about his future until this season ends.

Following Tuesday's shootaround before the Cavs hosted Brooklyn, James initially pretended he was unaware of the billboards.

"A lot of potholes on 480," James joked. "Got to be careful with the cars. Got to be very careful. That's why I don't do much driving. I sit in the backseat. You talking about the billboards, though?

Philadelphia used a 16-3 run to open a 33-20 lead in the first half, and Miami answered with an 18-2 run to go up 38-35. From there, a 12-minute stretch of back-and-forth commenced with neither team ever leading by more than three.

The 76ers eventually broke through, going up nine late in the third. But they saw the margin cut to 75-73 going into the fourth, after Wade hit a step-back 3 to end the quarter. In the fourth, Philadelphia went up again, this time by 10—and Miami clawed back again, using an 11-1 run to knot the game on a layup by Wade with 4:57 left.

And in the end, Wade won came through in a bigger way.

Cavaliers 129, Nets 123

In Cleveland, LeBron James had quite a February, and continues a one-of-a-kind career.

He finished the month averaging a triple-double for the first time in his career after having 31 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists on Tuesday night in the Cleveland Cavaliers' win over the Nets. James has 12 triple-double this season and 67 in his career.

"Scoring has always been last for me," James said. "I've never looked at myself as a scorer. But to know the history of the game and seeing the guys that put up triple-doubles on a regular (basis) from Jason Kidd to Magic Johnson to Oscar Robertson to Russell Westbrook, you can throw my name in there as well."

His 11th assist on Tuesday came late in the game and gave him 8,000 in his career. He's the first player in NBA history with 30,000 points, 8,000 rebounds and 8,000 assists.

"With the long list of so many great players that have come through this league, in the history of this league, for me to be the only (person) in a category, I think it's pretty cool," James said. "It's pretty cool."

James also became the first frontcourt player and the 11th overall in league history to reach 8,000 assists.

Hornets 118, Bulls 103

In Charlotte, Dwight Howard returned from a first quarter injury to lead Charlotte over the Bulls.

The Hornets center was hurt after playing 10 minutes in the opening quarter of a 118-103 win over Chicago on Tuesday night.

He first said it felt as if a rib "popped out a little bit."

"That happens a lot, it just comes out," Howard said. "Really nothing I can do about it.

Howard wanted to make it clear that it wasn't a back issue. Charlotte's coach Steve Clifford said it was "back spasms" and the team called it a back strain.

"There's nothing wrong with my back," he said. "Just want to make sure I put that out there. I wasn't really concerned with it being my back. I haven't had a problem with that in the last two years; I knew it wasn't my back. I've taken some hard falls and some hard hits, and that's what happens."

Wizards 107, Bucks 104

In Milwaukee, Bradley Beal scored 21 points, hitting a clutch 3-pointer and a free throw down the stretch, to help the Washington Wizards hang on for a 107-104 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Tuesday night.

Otto Porter Jr. added 17 points and Markieff Morris 14 for Washington which stayed hot after snapping the Philadelphia 76ers' seven-game winning streak Sunday with a 109-94 victory.

The Bucks lost a chance at clinching the season series with the Wizards who hold the fourth spot in the Eastern Conference. Washington improved to 2 1/2 games ahead of the sixth-place Bucks. The road team won both games of the series.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 23 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

Trail Blazers 116, Kings 99

In Portland, Damian Lillard had 26 points and 12 assists, and the Trail Blazers won their fourth straight with a 116-99 victory over the Sacramento Kings on Tuesday night.

Jusuf Nurkic added 17 points and nine rebounds for Portland, which sits in fifth place in the Western Conference—a game back of San Antonio—after winning five of its last six games. The current four-game winning streak matched the team's longest of the season.

Zach Randolph had 20 points for the Kings, who lost their fifth straight overall. Sacramento has dropped 10 straight games at Portland's Moda Center.

With just 18 wins, Sacramento is in second-to-last place in the West, above only the Phoenix Suns.

Clippers 122, Nuggets 120

In Denver, Lou Williams scored 25 points and Boban Marjanovic added a season-high 18 as the Los Angeles Clippers overcame a 19-point deficit in the third quarter to beat the Denver Nuggets.

Austin Rivers added 17 points and Montrezl Harrell had 15 for the Clippers, whose bench outscored Denver's reserves 54-4 in the second half.

Gary Harris had 23 points to lead the Nuggets, who lost consecutive games at home for the first time this season. Paul Millsap had nine points and seven rebounds in 23:26 minutes of play in his return from a left wrist injury that had sidelined him for the last three months.

Digital characters selected as Tokyo 2020 mascots

TOKYO (AP)—A pair of futuristic digital characters will be the mascots for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics.

Organizers unveiled the winning designs at a school in Tokyo on Wednesday.

About 6.5 million schoolchildren took part in voting among three short-listed designs with their classes casting a single vote.

The winning pair, clad in the `ichimatsu" checkered pattern of the Games' official logo, received 109,041 votes.

Their names will be decided by copywriters and other professionals and announced in July or August.

The selection process involving schoolchildren was introduced to get kids enthusiastic about the games while also ensuring transparency.

The original official logo was hit with plagiarism allegations and scrapped.

The Tokyo Olympics are scheduled for July 24 to Aug. 9, 2020.

Meanwhile, Tokyo used its famous 1964 Olympics to show off a miraculous recovery from defeat in World War II. Japan was back after just 19 years with high-speed trains, geeky gadgets, and dazzling efficiency.

Tokyo's back again with the 2020 Summer Olympics, this time with something different to prove.

This time the Japanese capital wants to remind the rest of the world that China and South Korea haven't left behind the first economic powerhouse in East Asia. They will use the games to showcase a clean, safe, and innovative city; an urban maze of nightlife, shopping, and dizzying subway lines that give texture to "Cool Japan" and the country's place as a cultural touchstone.

"It's going to be a good opportunity to showcase Japanese culture, our technology, our products, our good level of service to give impetus to the Japanese economy," Maki Kobayashi-Terada of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told The Associated Press.

"It's exactly soft power ... to create economic impact," Kobayashi-Terada added, a fancy term that means translating an engaging culture into political and economic power.

Tokyo has billed itself as a "safe pair of hands" for the Olympics, which is everything that Rio de Janeiro wasn't. The 2016 Games left behind scandals, millions in unpaid bills, and useless "white elephant" venues.

Tokyo also marks a watershed for the battered International Olympic Committee.

After corruption dogged the games in Rio, and a doping scandal grew out of the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, Tokyo should be the first of three return-to-normal Summer Games in first-world metropolises. The IOC has already picked Paris for 2024 and Los Angeles for 2028.

And Japan also has hosted two successful Winter Olympics in Nagano and Sapporo.

"I don't think the International Olympic Committee is going to go to a developing city any longer," Olympic historian David Wallechinsky told The Associated Press. "They don't want that anymore. They want cities that are ready."

The Pyeongchang Olympics were Wallechinsky's 18th, and he has researched every Olympics extensively including Tokyo. Those Olympics kicked off when Yoshinori Sakai—born in Hiroshima the day the city was hit by the 1945 atomic bomb—lit the Olympic cauldron.

But exactly what's in it for Japan?

Kobayashi-Terada said the Olympics will improve accessibility for the elderly and for people with disabilities, modernize infrastructure and drive tourism. She said Japan had 29 million foreign visitors last year, and hopes to have 40 million in 2020. Tourism is booming, particularly from Asia.

AP

Ryo Taniguchi, right, the designer of the characters which will serve as mascots for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and Paralympics Games, receives a 3D models of his designed characters in Tokyo, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018. The mascots has been selected after a vote among school children across Japan.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce's golf tournament set for April 14

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2018 Golf Tournament is looking to bring some fun to the golf course with a two-person scramble format.

Men and women of different skill levels and talents all have a chance at some amazing cash prizes: $800, $500, and $300 for first, second and third place, in both the team gross and team double peoria categories. There will also be cash prizes for closest-to-the-pin, longest drive, and accurate drive contests. In addition to these prizes, golfers will enjoy complimentary swag bags courtesy of our Chamber members as well as on-course snacks and refreshments.

The tournament is slated for April 14, with show time at 6am and shotgun start at 7am. The registration fee is $130/per person. Chamber members will enjoy a discounted fee of $120. A banquet and raffle will immediately follow after the tournament.

The funds raised by the tournament and raffle will support the Chamber's scholarship program, monthly training seminars, and other community based projects. Amongst the activities offered in 2017 were: $8,000 scholarships to high school seniors; $2,000 scholarship to an NMC college student; $2,000 scholarship to a vocational education student; annual Career Exploration Day: more than 80 public and private high school students experienced working in the private sector for a day; Veteran Cemetery improvements; Saipan Young Professionals 2017 Toys 4 Tots Program; and over $2,000.00 and 2,000 toys collected for less fortunate children

Fabulous raffle prizes have been donated, and tickets will be available for purchase during the awards banquet. Registration forms for players are available for download at www.saipan-chamber.com, at the Chamber office, and at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

The Chamber is pleased to have the support of its generous members and looks forward to offering new programs to enhance the business community on Saipan in the upcoming year.

For more information about the event, please visit the Chamber's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saipanchamber or contact Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec at 234-7150 or administrator@saipanchamber.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

JOSE

From Page 28

Bears and pitched seven shutout innings, limiting Titanium to three hits. He also had six strikeouts and three walks.

Kiku, on the other hand, went 4-for-5 and had a two-RBI triple in the Bears' five runs at the top of the eighth inning to lift his team to a 9-0 lead. Kiku also scored four times and had an RBI double in the second. Secharmidal, who struck out in the first, drove in four runs on a 2-for-5 batting with a double and one run. He hit an RBI double on K.J. Villagomez's first pitch to make it 6-0 at the top of the sixth.

Ben Flores had a two-RBI single at the top of the eighth, went 2-for-2, and reached home plate thrice, while A.J. Lizama, brother of Kiku and Peyton, was 3-for-6 and scored two runs. Angle Palacios hit 2-for-4 and earned an RBI to complete the Bears' strong batting performance.

The Bears entered the bottom of the eighth inning comfortably ahead, 12-0, before Titanium prevented the shutout after scoring four runs and threatening its opponents in the ninth.

A.J. Lizama, who replaced Ethan Babauta with two outs and Tindin Leon Guerrero about to bat at the bottom of the eighth, ended the inning after catching Bill Camacho off guard with a 2-6 putout play.

Titanium, despite facing a huge 4-17 deficit, tried to make a comeback at the bottom of the ninth and nearly forced the Bears to panic, especially when Brian Camacho hit a two-run shot.

Isaiah Lizama had a leadoff double in the ninth then scored on a Tony Leon Guerrero RBI single that sandwiched Lucio Kalen's infield fly for the first out. Brian Camacho then hit one at right center, a two-run homer that cleared the fence to make it 17-7 with still one out.

Jerald Cabrera was next at bat and had a triple then reached home on a Jun Tenorio RBI single, while the latter also scored on an RBI double from Glen Camacho for a 17-9 count.

Jose, who returned to the game to close out for the Bears, struck out Tindin Leon Guerrero for out No. 2. The Bears pitcher then gave up a single to Bill Camacho, who later scored on an error. That was it for Titanium, as Lizama ended the game when he picked up a Kalen grounder and quickly threw to Babauta at first base.

TANHOLDINGS

From Page 28

apiece for MP United, which drew one each from Audrey Castro, Andrew Chung, and Cody Shimizu. Hata hit back-to-back goals in a span of six minutes (second and eighth minute), while Castro, Chung, and Shimizu lit up the board in the 15th, 22nd, and 27th to lift MP United to a 5-1 halftime edge.

Markus Pelisamen gave Kanoa-2 its lone goal in the first half (25th minute) and also logged the second in the 47th minute. Bachani then closed out the game with a brace, as he got his first in the 37th and the last in the 52nd.

Matansa 5, TanHoldings-2 0

Matansa notched its second straight win after losing its season debut.

Chanyang Woo and Jose Rafael Lopez joined forces in handing Matansa victory No. 2. Woo posted a hat trick in consecutive fashion, while Lopez made two. Woo's string of goals started in the 15th minute, while his last two came in the 20th and 24th. Lopez picked up where Woo left off, as the former found his target in the 36th and 51st minute.

BOYS U18 TanHoldings 6, Kanoa 0

TanHoldings shut out Kanoa to win its opening game for the season.

Four different players scored in TanHoldings' strong start with Mark Esalan kicking things off for the squad after lighting up the board in the 25th minute. He also registered TanHoldings' last goal in the 84th minute.

Other scorers for TanHoldings were Joshua Mendez, George Shokarev, and Emmanuel Aniana.

MP United 3, NDT 1

MP United posted its second win after outclassing National Development Team.

Rintaro Miyawaki, Dai Podziewski, and Alex Park scored in the sixth, 44th, and 48th minute, respectively, to give MP United its second victory in as many games. Ryan Relucio averted a shutout loss for NDT after finding the back of the net in the 74th minute.

6

From Page 28

boys field, Toves' 15 topped the 10 of Betde's Mark Joseph Roque and the nine of CTSI Petmalu's Carvin Cruzat.

For the U18 division, Borja's 10 goals edged the six of Katrina Costales of the Kensington Hotel-backed Suplex City. Three players—Suplex City's Therize Millare, ABCD FC's Krizel Tuazon, and Bruv's Gillian Villagomez—made five each to round out the Top 3. In the boys group, Tekopua was the only player to score more than 10 with his 12, while ABCD FC's Dai Podziewski and Islanders FC's Taka Borja logged seven and six, respectively.

Meanwhile, organizers also recognized the Golden Glove awardees in each division.

In the co-ed U12, Mark Chavez won with his 85 saves, while CTSI Petmalu's Kristopher Pascual (69) and Kanoa Ali'i's Silvestre Ito (63) were ranked second and third. Daniel Matsunaga of CNMI United led the way in the co-ed U15 age group with his 73 saves beating the 67 and 53 of Betde United's Richard Waldo and Marianas United's Dylan Mister. There was also a close fight in the co-ed U18 division between Islanders FC's Carla Balleros and La Fabrica's Jonathan Mindanao as the former registered 86 saves against the 82 of the latter.

In the team awards, Kanoa Ali'i', Marianas United, and La Fabrica brought home the Fair Play trophies.

SSS 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament Co-ed U18 Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bruv players pose with their medals and trophy after beating CTSI Petmalu, 4-2, in the co-ed U18 title game in Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Friday night at the TSL Sports Complex. Also in the photo is SSS director Eli Arago, standing third left.

Players of runner-up CTSI Petmalu gather for a group photo during the awards presentation.

Bruv's Guine Borja kicks the ball.

CTSI Petmalu's Mia Carreon receives a pass from her teammate, while Bruv's Gillian Villagomez keeps a close eye on her.

CTSI Petmalu's Thaiphi Austria, left, and Bruv's Alan Hinson collide as they battle for possession.

Bruv' Alan Hinson, left, and CTSI Petmalu's Thaiphi Austria chase the ball.

CTSI Petmalu's Britanny Wally shields the ball from Bruv's Guine Borja.

Bruv's John Michael Rojas takes an open shot.

Dolphins willing to trade Landry despite franchise tag

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wade scores 27, Heat rally to beat 76ers

PAGE 25

TanHoldings-1 keeps clean slate

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
TanHoldings Football Club-1's Mark Chavez, right, steps into the play to get the ball, while his teammate and a Kanoa FC-1 player collide as they battle for possession during the second half of their co-ed U12 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

TanHoldings Football Club-1 is still undefeated in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League following a close 3-2 victory over Kanoa FC-1 last Saturday at Hopwood Middle School Field.

Anthony Bergancia knocked in a pair of goals, while Mark Joseph Roque chipped in one to hand TanHoldings-1 a 3-0-0 win-draw-loss record and the solo lead in the six-team field. TanHoldings-1's two earlier wins were against Matansa FC in the opening of the season, 5-4, and versus TanHoldings-2 in Week 2, 15-2.

Bergancia made both his goals in the first half, as he scored in the fourth minute and 24th. Roque's lone goal also came in the opening 30 minutes of play when he found the back of the net in the 13th minute.

Kanoa-1, which fell to a 1-1-1 mark, got its first goal from Leland Deleon Guerrero in the eighth minute, while the other one was courtesy of Markus Toves three minutes later, giving the squad a shaky 2-1 advantage.

Kanoa-1, which won its opener against Kanoa-2, 4-1, and drew MP United in its second game, 5-5, eventually lost the precarious lead when Roque and Bergancia teamed up in delivering the needed goals for TanHoldings-1.

MP United 7, Kanoa-2 2

MP United earned win No. 2 after dominating Kanoa-2.

Cosmo Hata and Dev Bachani recorded two goals

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 26

6 get Golden Boot awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six players from the teams that made it to the finals of their respective divisions in Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament went home with the Golden Boot awards during the closing ceremony of the competition last Friday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Fake Madrid's Paulynn Joyce and Kaden Church were the Golden Boot awardees in the co-ed U15 division, while Bruv's Guine Borja and Mareko Tekopua earned the same recognition in the co-ed U18 age group. Betde's Kaithlynn Chavez and Tinsel Toes' Markus Toves were the recipients of the similar awards in the co-ed U12 division. Tinsel Toes, Fake Madrid, and Bruv were the champions in the three age groups, beating Betde, Betde United, and CTSI Petmalu in the finals, respectively.

Church scored the most goals in the entire field with his 19 to beat the 17 of Betde's Taka Borja and the 16 of his teammate Rintaro Miyawaki. In the girls division, Joyce was the lone player to score more than 10 goals with her 13, while fellow Fake Madrid player Katrina Costales and Betde United's Shairmaine Francisco registered seven and four, respectively.

In the co-ed U12 division, Chavez was the runaway winner after collecting seven goals. Her teammate Julie Anne Capayas got three, the same output CTSI Petmalu's Pia Ngewakl posted. In the

See 6 on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Soccer School director Eli Arago, centers, joins the Golden Boot awardees for a group photo during the closing ceremony for SSS' 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Friday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Jose Lizama Jr. pitches Bears past Titanium

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kiku Lizama and Virgil Secharmidal drove in four runs each, while Jose Lizama Jr. pitched a solid game as the Chalan Kanoa Bears defeated Titanium, 17-11, in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Ballfield.

It was the Bears' second win, creating a three-way logjam on top of the standings with the Falcons and GSM, while the loss spoiled Brian Camacho's celebration after he hit the first home run of the season.

Jose started out for the

See JOSE on Page 26

JON PEREZ
The Chalan Kanoa Bears' Jose Lizama Jr., left, signals to relief pitcher Ethan Babauta to settle down, while a Titanium runner is at first base during their game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Ballfield.